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*Raymond A Joao*

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09/612528  
07/07/00

RJ150

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : RAYMOND A. JOAO

SERIAL NO.: PLEASE ASSIGN

FILED : CONCURRENTLY HERewith

FOR : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING JOB  
SEARCHING SERVICES, RECRUITMENT SERVICES  
AND/OR RECRUITMENT-RELATED SERVICES

EXAMINER : GROUP :

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Sir:

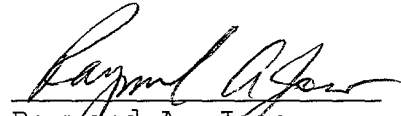
Please find enclosed herewith the following papers for  
filing as a Patent Application:

1. Utility Patent Application Transmittal Sheet;

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2. Fee Transmittal Sheet (in duplicate);
3. Declaration (2 pages);
4. Small Entity Status Form;
5. Application, including Specification, Claims and Abstract of the Disclosure (135 pages), and Drawings (16 sheets);
6. Check in the amount of \$384.00 for the filing fee; and
7. Return receipt postcard.

Respectfully Submitted,



Raymond A. Joao  
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July 7, 2000

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Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

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# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. RJ150  
First Inventor or Application Identifier RAYMOND A. JOAO  
Title APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING JOB SEARCHING SERVICES,  
RECRUITMENT SERVICES AND/OR RECRUITMENT-RELATED SERVICES  
Express Mail Label No. EK713429469US

## APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ \* Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)  
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 135]  
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
  - Descriptive title of the Invention
  - Cross References to Related Applications
  - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
  - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
  - Background of the Invention
  - Brief Summary of the Invention
  - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
  - Detailed Description
  - Claim(s)
  - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 16]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]
  - a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
  - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))  
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
    - i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting  
inventor(s) named in the prior application,  
see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

\* NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY  
FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT  
IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).

## ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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Washington, DC 20231

5. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission  
(if applicable, all necessary)
  - a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
  - b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
  - c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

## ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
8. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney  
(when there is an assignee)
9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
10. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
11. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
12. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(Should be specifically itemized)
13. ☒ \* Small Entity Statement(s) ☐ Statement filed in prior application,  
(PTO/SB/09-12) Status still proper and desired
14. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(if foreign priority is claimed)
15. ☐ Other: .....

## 16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Prior application information: Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Group / Art Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

## 17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label (Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here) or ☒ Correspondence address below

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Signature [Signature] Date 7/7/00

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)

RJ150

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: RAYMOND ANTHONY JOAO

Application or Patent No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Filed or Issued: JULY 7, 2000

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING JOB SEARCHING SERVICES,  
RECRUITMENT SERVICES AND/OR RECRUITMENT-RELATED SERVICES

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.  
☐ the application identified above.  
☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ No such person, concern, or organization exists.  
☐ Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

RAYMOND ANTHONY JOAO

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

Raymond Anthony Joao  
Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

7/7/00  
Date

Date

Date

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING JOB SEARCHING SERVICES,  
RECRUITMENT SERVICES AND/OR RECRUITMENT-RELATED SERVICES

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/146,776, filed July 31, 1999, and entitled "APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING JOB SEARCHING SERVICES, RECRUITMENT SERVICES AND/OR RECRUITMENT-RELATED SERVICES", the subject matter of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services and/or recruitment-related services and, in particular, to an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services and/or recruitment-related services as they may relate to individuals, independent contractors, freelancers, employers and/or hiring entities, in a network environment.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Individuals, independent contractors, and/or freelancers, can expend great efforts and a great deal of time in job searching efforts. Individuals, independent contractors, and/or freelancers, typically place a great deal of importance on their job searching efforts, on efforts directed to securing employment, both permanently and/or temporarily as a temporary employee and/or "contract" employee, and/or on efforts directed to obtaining and/or securing projects and/or assignments.

Employers and/or hiring entities require that they have a satisfactory workforce in order to meet the demands of doing business. In this regard, employers and/or hiring entities very often need to find and/or recruit new employees, replace former employees, find employees with new skills to meet their business needs, and/or obtain the services of temporary workers, independent contractors, and/or freelancers.

Growing businesses and markets have been created by the need for individuals, independent contractors, and/or freelancers to find and/or to secure jobs, employment, projects and/or assignments, and by the need of employers and/or hiring entities to recruit and hire new employees, independent contractors, and/or freelancers. These businesses and markets include

employment agencies, recruiters, so-called "headhunters", employment and/or career consultants, temporary employment agencies, personal agents, personal managers, and/or other intermediaries, who or which, respectively, bring the respective parties together and/or assist them in obtaining introductions, establishing a dialog between parties, reaching agreement on, and/or establishing an employment, an independent contractor, and/or a freelance relationship.

Job searching activities and recruitment activities typically require efforts in introducing parties to one another, pre-screening the parties prior to, and/or subsequent to, an introduction, acting as an information gathering entity for a party, exchanging information in order to determine if a relationship is appropriate and/or desirable, negotiating a deal, and/or consummating a deal between the respective parties. While individuals and/or employers and/or hiring entities can act on their own behalf during most of the process, one of the parties may typically enlist the efforts of an employment agency or agencies, a recruiter(s), a so-called "headhunter(s)", an employment and/or career consultant(s), a temporary employment agency or agencies, a personal agent(s), a personal manager(s), and/or another intermediary or intermediaries, sometimes at great expense.

The enlistment of employment agencies, recruiters, so-called "headhunters", employment and/or career consultants, temporary employment agencies, personal agents, personal managers, and/or other intermediaries, can be costly and can lead to job search efforts and/or recruitment efforts which may be limited in breadth and/or scope by the personal and/or individual contacts, limitations and/or constraints associated with the employment agency, recruiter, so-called "headhunter", employment and/or career consultant, temporary employment agency, personal agent, personal manager, and/or other intermediary.

In this regard, job search efforts and/or recruitment efforts may be limited, thereby depriving an individual and/or an employer and/or hiring entity of being introduced to the best possible candidates. In some instances, an employer and/or hiring entity may forgo access to certain candidates simply because they cannot and/or refuse to enlist the efforts of a recruiter and/or other intermediary.

Job searching efforts and recruitment efforts may be limited by and/or be constrained by limited personal contacts, geographical constraints, monetary constraints, and/or time constraints. Oftentimes, individuals, employers and/or hiring



entities, do not have the resources to conduct their own respective job searching efforts or recruitment efforts. The enlistment of employment agencies, recruiters, so-called "headhunters", employment and/or career consultants, temporary employment agencies, personal agents, personal managers, and/or other intermediaries, may not be sufficient to overcome these limitations and/or constraints, particularly, if the respective employment agency or agencies, recruiter(s), so-called "headhunter(s)", employment and/or career consultant(s), temporary employment agency or agencies, personal agent(s), personal manager(s) and/or other intermediary or intermediaries, are working with similar limitations and/or constraints.

The job search process and/or the recruitment process can typically be rendered more difficult in instances when additional information may be requested by one or by both of the parties concerning a counterpart. This typically results in time delays and/or additional expense to the party having to comply with such a request.

Job searching efforts and/or recruitment efforts may further be rendered more difficult when the parties are not properly pre-screened, thereby resulting in wasted time and effort, and/or when the parties are not properly informed as to

the needs and/or demands of a counterpart. The needs and/or demands can include job description, job needs, project description, assignment description, salary, compensation, and/or other related information. The failure to pre-screen the parties and/or to conduct a dialog and/or initiate interviews and/or discussions when the parties may be so far apart regarding their respective needs, requests and/or expectations, for example, those involving job duties and/or salary, can result in wasted time and effort.

Confidentiality is typically another concern in job searching activities and/or in recruitment activities. Individuals, employees, and/or hiring entities may have an interest in, and/or a desire for, maintaining confidentiality during at least some initial stages of any job search and/or recruitment effort. In some instances, once an initial interest is expressed, any confidentiality which may have existed may be lost for the remainder of the process. Sometimes, it may be desirable for an individual, an employer and/or hiring entity, to retain at least some level of confidentiality and/or anonymity further into the job search and/or recruitment process. In this manner, at least some confidentiality and/or anonymity can be preserved, especially if a deal between the parties is not ultimately reached.

Job searching activities and/or recruitment activities may be far too widespread and may be far too important to be limited by the above-described limitations and/or constraints. Individuals, employers and/or hiring entities would be better served by a system which overcomes the shortcomings of the prior art.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The apparatus and method of the present invention overcomes the shortcomings of the prior art and provides an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services and/or recruitment-related services. The present invention utilizes the technologies and advances in information technology and in communication technology in order to provide these services in a network environment.

The present invention is directed to an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services and/or recruitment-related services, for the respective individuals, employees, independent contractors, freelancers, employers and/or hiring entities, described herein in a network environment. The present invention also provides a centralized apparatus, which can also serve as a clearinghouse, which provides job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, as well as any of the services and/or activities described herein.

The apparatus and method of the present invention can be utilized by individuals, independent contractors, freelancers, and/or other entities, desirous of securing a job, a

position, a project, an assignment, and/or an employment relationship, either permanent and/or temporary, with an employer and/or a hiring entity. The apparatus and method of the present invention can also be utilized by employers and/or by other hiring entities desirous of securing the services of an individual, an employee, an independent contractor, and/or freelancer, either permanently and/or temporarily.

The present invention can also be utilized by an employment agency, a recruiter, a so-called "headhunter", or other intermediary, in order to assist and/or to act on behalf of any of the individuals, employers and/or hiring entities described herein. The present invention can also be utilized in order to provide agency services for any of the herein described parties, i.e., individual, employees, independent contractors, freelancers, employers, hiring entities, recruiters, headhunters, etc.

The apparatus and method of the present invention can be utilized in a network environment in order to effectuate any of the services described herein on, or over, any communication network.

The apparatus can include a central processing computer or server computer, at least one or more individual computers and at least one or more employer computers. Each of the herein-described computers may communicate with any and all of the computers which are utilized in conjunction with the apparatus of the present invention. The present invention may be utilized in any communication network such as the Internet, the World Wide Web, a telecommunications network, and/or any other communication network described herein and/or otherwise.

Each of the central processing computer(s), the individual computers, and/or the employer computers can include any and/or all components, peripherals, hardware, and/or software, for facilitating the use thereof in a manner consistent with the present invention as described herein.

The central processing computer may also include, and/or be linked to, a database(s) and/or other storage and/or memory device(s) for storing any and/or all of the data and/or information described as being utilized, and/or which may be utilized, in conjunction with the present invention.

The present invention provides job search services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, while

preserving confidentiality among and/or between the parties and/or between the parties and third parties, and may further provide for varying layers of confidentiality for the parties involved. The present invention can also provide enhanced information services for the parties utilizing same, including but not limited to, links, hyperlinks, and/or other pointing and/or linking devices for linking a user to additional and/or supplemental information concerning any of the individuals, employers, hiring entities, and/or other parties, involved in a dialog, negotiations and/or discussions.

The data and/or information utilized in conjunction with the present invention can also be utilized by the various individuals, employers, hiring entities, contractors, applicants, recruiters, headhunters, third party intermediaries, and/or the operator and/or the administrator of the apparatus, and can be uploaded to, downloaded from, and/or be stored and/or be resident on any of the central processing computer(s), the individual computer(s), and/or the employer computer(s).

The apparatus and method of the present invention can be utilized to perform various job-searching services, recruitment services and/or recruitment-related services and/or functions. The present invention may be utilized by an individual, a

prospective employee, an independent contractor, a freelancer, either permanent or temporary, to find or to locate a job, a position, a project and/or an assignment, for which they may wish to apply. The present invention can also be utilized by an employer and/or hiring entity to recruit and/or to search for, an individual, a prospective employee, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer, either permanent or temporary.

The present invention can also be utilized by a recruiter, a headhunter, and/or a third party intermediary, in order to assist an individual, a prospective employee, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer, in searching for a job, a position, a project, and/or an assignment, and/or for assisting an employer and/or a hiring entity in searching for, and/or for recruiting an individual, a prospective employee, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer, in order to fill a hiring and/or other need.

The present invention may also be utilized to notify an individual, a prospective employee, an independent contractor, and/or freelancer, of the existence and/or the availability of an opportunity for and/or related to a job, a position, a project and/or an assignment. The present invention may also be utilized to notify an employer and/or a hiring entity of the availability



of an individual, a prospective employee, an independent contractor, and/or freelancer.

Any and/or all of the communications between the parties may be effected via electronic message transmission, e-mail, electronic forms submission, a telephone call, telephone messaging, facsimile messaging, pager and/or beeper messaging, physical mailing, and/or via any other appropriate method, means and/or mechanism.

Employers and/or other hiring entities can post data and/or list information regarding jobs, employment positions, temporary positions, assignments, freelance assignments, contracting assignments and/or jobs, as well as any other assignments, projects and/or efforts which require and/or which may require the services of an individual, an employee, an independent contractor, a freelancer, a temporary employee, etc, with the present invention.

Similarly, individuals, job applicants, prospective employees, independent contractors, temporary workers, and/or freelancers, etc., can also post and/or list data and/or information regarding themselves with the present invention.

The present invention can be utilized in order to allow employers and/or hiring entities to bid for individuals, employees, independent contractors, and/or freelancers. The present can also be utilized in order to allow individuals and/or their agents and/or managers to auction and/or offer their services to employers and/or to hiring entities.

The present invention can be utilized for managing work schedules, and/or for maintaining information regarding work schedules for an individual or entity, including, but not limited to any job applicant, temporary worker, independent contractor, and/or freelancer. An employer and/or hiring entity can obtain information regarding the work, temporary assignment, and/or project or assignment, schedules for any individual or entity utilizing the present invention. An employer and/or hiring entity may hire and/or reserve the time of and/or the services of, the individual and/or entity via the present invention.

The present invention can also provide an individual and/or an employer and/or hiring entity with data and/or information regarding the latest developments and/or current developments in the employment and/or recruiting fields, including, but not limited to, growth areas, demand information for certain jobs and/or professions, salary surveys, etc. In this

manner, the present invention can provide information for allowing an individual, an employer and/or hiring entity to determine the state of the job market and/or to utilize this information in any appropriate manner so as to minimize the time, effort and/or expense of job searching efforts and/or recruitment efforts.

The present invention can also provide notification to any of the individuals, employers and/or hiring entities, when and/or if information is being and/or has been requested about he, she or it. The present invention can also provide the identity of the party requesting the information to the respective individual, employer and/or hiring entity.

The present invention can also provide for the blockage of any access, authorized and/or unauthorized, to any of the data and/or information utilized in conjunction with the present invention and/or concerning any individual, entity, employer, and/or hiring entity, utilizing the present invention. The present invention can also provide any data and/or information specifically, generically, generally, such as for a group, and/or statistically and/or in any other manner.

The present invention can also be utilized so as to prevent certain individuals and/or entities, employers and/or hiring entities, from accessing the data and/or information about any other individual, entity, employer, and/or hiring entity.

The operation of the present invention may be triggered by any type of pre-specified event and/or occurrence which may include a new individual listing, a new employer and/or hiring entity listing, a departure of an individual from an employer, the completion of a job, project and/or assignment, changes in an economic factor(s), changes in a market factor(s), an increase in an unemployment rate, the unemployment of an individual, a detected need for jobs having a certain skill(s), and/or any other event, situation, and/or any other occurrence which may be deemed to have some relationship and/or effect related to job searching efforts and/or recruitment efforts.

The apparatus and method of the present invention can also be utilized for performing and/or for facilitating the provision of recruitment services for schools, colleges, universities, and/or any organizations of any kind.

The apparatus of the present invention can also be programmed in order to be self-activating and/or activated automatically.

The apparatus of the present invention can also be programmed in order to generate and/or transmit any of the e-mails, electronic message transmissions, electronic notification transmissions, and/or any of the communications, described herein between any of the parties utilizing the present invention.

The present invention can be utilized in conjunction with intelligent agents, software agents and/or mobile agents, in order to provide for these respective agents to act for, or on behalf of, a respective party.

The present invention can also be utilized in order to generate electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons for advertising and/or for publicizing the availability of individuals, independent contractors, and/or freelancers, for work, and/or for advertising and/or publicizing jobs, employment positions, projects and/or assignments, which employers and/or hiring entities are seeking to fill.

The present invention can also be utilized in order to monitor, record and/or keep track of, all offers and/or rejections involving any and all jobs, employment positions, projects and/or assignments, which occur in conjunction with and/or via use of the present invention. The information compiled can be provided to individuals, employers, and/or recruiters for use in any appropriate and/or suitable manner.

The present invention, can also store individual and/or employer data and/or information with various and/or varying levels of specificity and/or confidentiality.

The apparatus and method of the present invention can be utilized as an electronic and/or network-based recruiting apparatus and/or clearinghouse. The present invention can be utilized in order to reduce recruiting costs and so-called headhunter fees to employers as well as job search efforts and/or expenses to individuals. The present invention provides an apparatus and a method for eliminating intermediaries and/or unnecessary efforts and/or expense involved in job search and/or recruitment processes for any of the individuals, employers and/or hiring entities described herein.

The present invention can also be utilized in conjunction with the bartering and/or trading of services between parties, such as individuals, employers, and/or hiring entities.

The present invention also provides an apparatus and a method for providing enhanced confidentiality during the job-search, recruitment, and/or related interactions, negotiations and/or other dealings between the parties involved in same. The present invention can monitor and/or record any interaction between any of the parties which utilize the present invention.

The present invention can also be utilized in conjunction with job searches and/or recruiting efforts for any kind of job, profession, employment position, project, and/or assignment, and/or for any permanent, temporary, independent contractor, and/or freelance, job, employment position, project, and/or assignment.

The present invention can utilize electronic commerce technologies and security methods, techniques and technologies.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job search

services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job search services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, in a network environment.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job search services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, on and/or over the Internet, the World Wide Web, and/or any other communication network.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides links to various data and/or information which may be requested, required, and/or desired, by the respective parties involved in job searching activities and/or in recruitment activities.

It is another object of the present invention to



provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which utilizes databases which can be linked to external information sources.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which facilitates the posting of data and/or information by respective individuals and/or employers and/or hiring entities.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services and/or recruitment-related services, which allows an individual to perform job searches.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services and/or recruitment-related services, which allows an employer and/or hiring entity to perform recruitment searches.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which notifies an individual of job and/or employment opportunities which may be of interest to the individual when same become available.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which notifies an employer and/or hiring entity of individuals, prospective employees, independent contractors, permanent workers, temporary workers, and/or freelancers, who or which may be of interest to the employer and/or hiring entity when these individuals and/or entities become available.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which utilizes data and/or information which is specific, generic, and/or general, to an individual, to an employer, and/or to hiring entity.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which facilitates providing notification to an employer and/or hiring entity when a recruitment-related opportunity arises.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which facilitates providing notification to an individual when an employment-related opportunity arises.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides for the securing and/or the reserving of services of an individual, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job-searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides notification of the availability of an individual, a prospective employee, a job applicant, an

independent contractor, a temporary worker, and/or a freelancer, for a job, position, project, or assignment.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job-searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides notification of the availability of a job, an employment position, a project, and/or an assignment, with an employer and/or hiring entity.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method of the providing job-searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which utilizes electronic messages and/or e-mail messages which contain links to information and/or information sources which may be utilized in providing said information.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides for bidding and/or auctioning activities regarding said services.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides scheduling services and/or schedule management services for an individual, an independent contractor, a freelancer, an employer and/or hiring entity.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides information regarding developments related to the job-search and/or recruitment fields.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides notification to an individual, an independent contractor, a freelancer, and an employer and/or hiring entity, when data and/or information has been requested about them.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related

services, which can be utilized by an individual, an independent contractor, a freelancer, an employer and/or hiring entity, and/or a party acting on behalf of same.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which prevents access to certain data and/or information by certain parties.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services and/or recruitment-related services, which can be programmed to be self-activating and/or be activated automatically.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services and/or recruitment-related services which generates electronic messages, e-mail messages, telephone calls, pager calls, pager messages, and/or other communication messages, automatically.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which utilizes intelligent agents, software agents, and/or mobile agents, for providing various services for, and/or for taking action on behalf of, a respective party.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides links and/or hyperlinks to information, products and/or services related thereto.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides automatic notification of, and/or announcements of, job openings, position openings, projects, and/or assignments, the availability of job applicants and/or the availability of goods and/or service providers, to respective parties.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services,

recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which monitors, records, and/or provides notification of, any communications which take place and/or which may transpire between respective parties.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides for the generation of and/or the distribution of electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons related to job search activities and/or recruitment activities.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides notification of job-search-related and/or recruitment-related events and/or occurrences.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which monitors, records and/or keeps track of, job search and/or recruitment activities of, and for, any of the respective parties.



It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides for the storage and/or the utilization of data and/or information with various and/or varying levels of confidentiality and/or specificity.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which is utilized in conjunction with the buying, selling, bartering and/or trading, of goods and/or services.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides enhanced confidentiality during the respective job search, recruitment, and/or related activities and/or interactions.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related

services, which monitors and/or records communications, interactions, and/or dealings, between parties.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which provides statistical information pertaining to job searches, recruitment activities, and/or related activities.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which can be utilized in conjunction with independent job search efforts and/or independent recruitment efforts.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, which can administer a financial account for, and/or on behalf of a party, and which can effect a payment from one party to another, and/or receive a payment for, and/or on behalf of, a party.

It is yet another object of the present invention to

provide an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, for schools, colleges, universities, and/or any organizations of any kind.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art upon a review of the Description of the Preferred Embodiment taken in conjunction with the Drawings which follow.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the Drawings:

Figure 1 illustrates the apparatus of the present invention, in block diagram form;

Figure 2 illustrates the central processing computer of the apparatus of Figure 1, in block diagram form;

Figure 3 illustrates the individual computer of the apparatus of Figure 1, in block diagram form;

Figure 4 illustrates the employer computer of the apparatus of Figure 1, in block diagram form;

Figures 5A to 5E illustrate a preferred embodiment operation of the apparatus of Figure 1, in flow diagram form;

Figures 6A to 6E illustrate another preferred embodiment operation of the apparatus of Figure 1, in flow diagram form;

Figure 7 illustrates another preferred embodiment operation of the apparatus of Figure 1, in flow diagram form; and

Figure 8 illustrates another preferred embodiment operation of the apparatus of Figure 1, in flow diagram form.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention is directed to an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, and, in particular, to an apparatus and a method for providing job searching services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services, for effectuating services and activities involving and/or related to job search efforts and/or recruitment efforts, by, and/or for, individuals, independent contractors, freelancers, employers and/or hiring entities.

The apparatus and method of the present invention provides services which facilitate individual, independent contractor, and/or freelancer, job search efforts, employer and/or hiring entity recruitment, search and/or placement efforts, and/or related efforts. The present invention also provides a centralized apparatus, and/or a clearinghouse, for

providing and/or for facilitating the herein-described efforts, services, and/or activities.

The apparatus and method of the present invention can be utilized by individuals and entities desirous of identifying and/or securing an employment relationship, either permanent and/or temporary, an independent contractor relationship, and/or a freelancer relationship, with an employer and/or hiring entity. The apparatus and method of the present invention can also be utilized by employers and/or hiring entities desirous of searching for, and/or for securing the services of, an individual, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer, either permanently and/or temporarily.

The present invention can also be utilized by an employment agency, an agent, a recruiter, a so-called "headhunter", a career consultant, a personal manager, and/or an intermediary, to assist an individual, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer, in searching for a job, a position, a project, and/or assignment. The present invention can also be utilized to assist an employer and/or hiring entity to search for an individual, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer. The present invention can also be utilized in order to provide agency services for any of the herein described parties, such as,

but not limited to, individuals, independent contractors, freelancers, employers, hiring entities, recruiters, and/or headhunters.

The terms "individual", "employee", "prospective employee", "applicant", "contractor", "independent contractor", "temp", "temporary employee", "freelancer" etc., as used herein, refer to any individual, person, company, business entity, independent contracting business or entity, employment agent and/or agency, and/or any other entity, seeking to identify, find, and/or secure, a job, an employment position, a project, and/or an assignment, for himself, herself, itself, and/or for another.

The terms "employer", "hiring entity", "company", "business", etc., as used herein, refer to any employer, hiring entity, individual, person, company, business entity, and/or other entity, seeking to identify, find, or secure the services of, an individual, independent contractor, and/or freelancer, for itself and/or for another.

The terms "recruiter", "headhunter", "employment agency", "placement agency", "employment consultant", "placement consultant", etc., refer to any individual, person, and/or

entity, who or which acts as an intermediary for, and/or on behalf of, any party or parties described herein, in order to initiate and/or to effectuate a job search and/or a recruitment activity and/or any searches or activities which result, and/or which proceed, therefrom.

Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter and teachings of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/146,776 which teaches an apparatus and method for providing job searching services, recruitment services and/or recruitment-related services.

The apparatus and method of the present invention can be utilized in a network environment in order to effectuate any of the services described herein.

Figure 1 illustrates a preferred embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention which is designated generally by the reference numeral 100. In Figure 1, the apparatus 100 includes a central processing computer or server computer 10. The central processing computer 10 provides control over the apparatus 100 and provides services for the various computers associated with the various individuals employees, contractors, independent contractors, freelancers, employers, hiring entities,



recruiters, etc., who or which utilize the apparatus 100 of the present invention.

The central processing computer 10, in the preferred embodiment, can be any suitable computer, network computer, or computer system, for providing service for the various computers associated with the individuals, employees, independent contractors, freelancers, employers, hiring entities, recruiters, etc., who or which utilize the present invention.

In the preferred embodiment, any number of central processing computers 10 may be utilized in order to provide the servicing functions described herein. The central processing computer(s) 10 may be linked to other central processing computers or may be stand alone devices. A given central processing computer 10 may service a particular geographic area or certain individuals employees, independent contractors, freelancers, employers, hiring entities, recruiters, etc., and/or groups thereof. A central processing computer 10 may also be dedicated to service any one or group of the above described individuals and/or entities.

The apparatus 100, in the preferred embodiment, also includes one or more individual computers 20. Each individual

computer 20 may be a personal computer or other communication device suitable for allowing the individual to interact with the central processing computer(s) 10. Each individual computer 20 can be utilized to transmit information to the central processing computer 10 and to receive information from the central processing computer 10 via the communication network.

The individual computer 20 can be a personal computer, a hand-held computer, a palmtop computer, a laptop computer, a personal communication device, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a digital telephone, a display telephone, a video telephone, a videophone, a 3G telephone, a television, an interactive television, a beeper, a pager, and/or a watch. In the present invention, any number of individual computers 20 may be utilized. In the present invention, each individual or entity utilizing the present invention may have one or more individual computers 20 associated therewith.

The apparatus 100, in the preferred embodiment, also includes one or more employer computers 30. Each employer computer 30 may be a personal computer or other communication device suitable for allowing the employer to interact with the central processing computer(s) 10. Each employer computer 30 can be utilized to transmit information to the central processing

computer 10 and to receive information from the central processing computer 10 via the communication network.

The employer computer 30 can be a personal computer, a hand-held computer, a palmtop computer, a laptop computer, a personal communication device, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a digital telephone, a display telephone, a video telephone, a videophone, a 3G telephone, a television, an interactive television, a beeper, a pager, and/or a watch. In the preferred embodiment, any number of employer computers 30 may be utilized. In the present invention, each employer and/or hiring entity utilizing the present invention may have one or more employer computers 30 associated therewith.

Each of the individual computer(s) 20 and each of the employer computer(s) 30 described herein can transmit information to each central processing computer 10 as well as receive information from each central processing computer 10. In addition, each individual computer 20 can also transmit information to any employer computer 30 as well as receive information from any employer computer 30. In a similar manner, each employer computer 30 can transmit information to any individual computer 20 as well as receive information from any individual computer 20.

The central processing computer(s) 10, the individual computer(s) 20, and/or the employer computer(s) 30 can communicate with one another, and/or be linked to one another, over a communication network and/or a wireless communication network. In the preferred embodiment, the present invention is utilized on, and/or over, the Internet and/or the World Wide Web. The present invention, in the preferred embodiment, can also utilize wireless Internet and/or World Wide Web services, equipment and/or devices. The central processing computer(s) 10, in the preferred embodiment, has a web site or web sites associated therewith.

Although the Internet and/or the World Wide Web is the preferred communication system and/or medium utilized, the present invention, in all of the embodiments described herein, can also be utilized with any appropriate communication systems including, but not limited to, network communication systems, telephone communication systems, cellular communication systems, digital communication systems, personal communication systems, personal communication services (PCS) systems, satellite communication systems, broad band communication systems, low earth orbiting (LEO) satellite systems, and/or public switched telephone networks or systems.

In the preferred embodiment, each of the central processing computer(s) 10, the individual computer(s) 20, and employer computer(s) 30, can transmit data and/or information using TCP/IP, as well as any other Internet and/or World Wide Web, protocols.

The individual computer 20, in the preferred embodiment, can be linked directly or indirectly with a central processing computer 10. The employer computer 30, in the preferred embodiment, can also be linked directly or indirectly with a central processing computer 20. In any of the preferred embodiments described herein, any individual computer(s) 20 and any employer computer(s) 30 can be linked directly or indirectly with one another so as to facilitate a direct or indirect bi-directional communication between an individual computer(s) 20 and an employer computer(s) 30.

Figure 2 illustrates the central processing computer 10, in block diagram form. The central processing computer 10, in the preferred embodiment, is a network computer or computer system which is utilized as a central processing computer such as an Internet server computer and/or a web site server computer. In the preferred embodiment, the central processing computer 10

includes a central processing unit or CPU 10A, which in the preferred embodiment, is a microprocessor. The CPU 10A may also be a microcomputer, a minicomputer, a macro-computer, and/or a mainframe computer, depending upon the application.

The central processing computer 10 also includes a random access memory device(s) 10B (RAM) and a read only memory device(s) 10C (ROM), each of which is connected to the CPU 10A, a user input device 10D, for entering data and/or commands into the central processing computer 10, which includes any one or more of a keyboard, a scanner, a user pointing device, such as, for example, a mouse, a touch pad, and/or an audio input device and/or a video input device, etc., if desired, which input device(s) are also connected to the CPU 10A. The central processing computer 10 also includes a display device 10E for displaying data and/or information to a user or operator.

The central processing computer 10 also includes a transmitter(s) 10F, for transmitting signals and/or data and/or information to any one or more of the individual computer(s) 20 and employer computer(s) 30 which may be utilized in conjunction with the present invention. The central processing computer 10 also includes a receiver 10G, for receiving signals and/or data

and/or information from any one or more of the individual computer(s) 20 and/or employer computer(s) 30.

The central processing computer 10 also includes a database(s) 10H which contains data and/or information pertaining to the individuals, employees, independent contractors, freelancers, and/or other persons or entities, who or which utilize the present invention in order to find or secure a job, project, or assignment. The database 10H also contains data and/or information pertaining to the employers and/or hiring entities who or which utilize the present invention to recruit individuals, independent contractors, or freelancers, in order to satisfy their needs and/or requirements. The database 10H may also contain data and/or information pertaining to recruiters, headhunters, management consultants, managers, and/or other intermediaries, and/or third parties, who or which utilize the present invention in order to act on behalf of any of the individuals, independent contractors, freelancers, employers and/or hiring entities, who attempt to match the needs of any of the parties described herein.

Individual data and/or information, which can be stored in the database 10H, can include, but not be limited to, the individual's name, sex, age, address, educational information,

schooling, work experience, work history, skills, work-related skills, past employers, references, salary history, salary requirements, benefit requirements, school transcripts, links to registrar's offices and/or databases at respective school(s) and/or to a transcript database and/or electronic storage facility, medium, and/or device, which stores transcripts and/or other scholastic and/or educational information about an individual(s), work samples, reference letters, recommendation letters, pictures, video clips, and/or other relevant and/or pertinent information. In this manner, the present invention facilitates more efficient access to data and/or information pertaining to an individual(s).

In order to preserve confidentiality and/or so as to maintain an anonymous identity, each of the above-described types of information can be described in a generic manner, i.e., a school can be listed as a large Ivy League institution as opposed to being named and positively identified. For example, an individual can be described as being a mid-level engineer having experience in computer programming, etc.

Each and every field of data and/or information can be represented by a corresponding generic term or terms so as to keep the true information masked for a desired time period or



during a certain period of processing. The individual data and/or information can also include certain jobs and/or events and/or occurrences for which the individual may desire to be notified. Any of the data and/or information may have hyperlinks associated therewith for directing a party to a separate and/or a different data and/or information source. The information source may be external from the central processing computer 10.

The database 10H can also contain data and/or information restricting access to any of the data and/or information stored in the database 10H. For example, an individual, independent contractor, freelancer, employer, and/or hiring entity, may, at any time, may restrict access by any party, to any of their respective data and/or information. For example, an individual may prevent a current employer from accessing his or her data and/or information, thereby maintaining the confidentiality of a job search. Similarly, any party may restrict the availability of any of its data and/or information from any other party or parties.

In the cases of temporary employees, self-employed individuals, professionals, independent contractors, freelancers, etc., the database 10H can contain information regarding the schedules and/or work calendars for any of these individuals,

employees, and/or entities. In this regard, each individual, employee, and/or entity in this category may store and have maintained by the apparatus 100, a work schedule and/or working calendar which can provide information regarding days and/or time periods of employment and/or engagement as well as days and/or time periods of availability.

The database 10H can also contain information pertaining to employers whom an individual will readily work for if the employer should need and/or request the individual. The individual data and/or information can also include employers and/or hiring entities whom the individual, independent contractor, or freelancer, has agreed in advance to work for, as well as employers and/or hiring entities whom the individual has decided in advance not to work for. The database 10H can also include information regarding which employers and/or hiring entities may access an individual's data and/or information as well as those employers and/or hiring entities who may not access an individual's data and/or information.

The database 10H also includes data and/or information about employers who or which utilize the present invention which information includes, but is not limited to, employer name, company name, job offerings, job openings, job(s) or position(s)

needed to be filled, job(s) or position(s) desired to be filled, employer size, employer location, regional location, jobs or positions employed, benefits offered, employer history, salary information, compensation information, customer information, supplier information, information from past employees, information from current employees, past and/or current employment agencies or recruiter representing the employer, types of positions, including but not limited to permanent and/or temporary positions, references, pictures of facilities, video clips, fringe benefits, work hours, work requirements, recommendation letters, salary and/or compensation information.

The data and/or information contained in the database 10H can also include information concerning events, occurrences, availability of an applicant or applicants and/or any other information of which the employer may wish to be notified.

As in the case with individuals, in order to preserve confidentiality and/or so as to maintain an anonymous identity, each of the above-described types of information can be described in a generic manner, i.e., an employer can be listed as a large computer manufacturer as opposed to being named and positively identified.

Each and every field of data and/or information, described herein as being stored in the database 10H and/or otherwise utilized by the present invention, can be represented by a corresponding generic term or terms so as to keep the true information masked for a desired time period or during a certain period of processing. The employer data and/or information can also include events and/or occurrences for which the employer may desire to be notified. Any of the data and/or information stored in the database 10H may have hyperlinks associated therewith for directing a party to a separate and/or to a different data and/or information source, which may also be external from the central processing computer 10.

The employer data and/or information can also include work schedules and/or work calendars which provide information regarding when the employer will be in need of the assistance of and/or the services of individuals, independent contractors, temporary employees, and/or freelancers. The database 10H can contain information regarding the schedules and/or work calendars providing notification of the human resource and/or employee requirements for the employer and/or hiring entity thereby providing information regarding days and/or time periods when it will require the assistance of individuals, independent contractors and/or freelancers.



fulfillment of the needs of the respective parties. The information can include, but not be limited to, the recruiter's name, location, types of positions filled by same, information from past clients, references, past dealings and/or deals with an employer and/or hiring entity, salary histories of past deals, etc.

As in the case with individuals and employers, in order to preserve confidentiality and/or so as to maintain an anonymous identity, each of the above-described types of information can be described in a generic manner, i.e., a recruiter and/or any information pertaining thereto can be described generically, i.e. a legal recruiter specializing in placing bankruptcy attorneys, etc., as opposed to being named and positively identified.

Each and every field of data and/or information can be represented by a corresponding generic term or terms so as to keep the true information masked for a desired time period or during a certain period of processing. The recruiter data and/or information can also include events and/or occurrences for which the recruiter may desire to be notified. Any of the data and/or information stored in the database 10H may have hyperlinks associated therewith for directing a party to a separate and/or a

different data and/or information source, which may also be external from the central processing computer 10.

The database 10H may also contain any other information which may be relevant, pertinent, useful, and/or desired, for facilitating the operation of the apparatus and method of the present invention as described herein and/or as related thereto.

The database 10H, in the preferred embodiment, is a database which may include individual databases or collections of databases, with each database being designated to store any and all of the data and/or information described herein.

The database 10H may also contain data and/or information concerning past placements and/or transactions with such data and/or information being stored after each placement and/or transaction which occurs via the apparatus and method of the present invention. Any and all data and/or information can be stored regarding transactions which occur via the present invention as well as those transactions which occur independently of the present invention. The data and/or information can then be compiled and processed using statistical calculations in order to update the stored historical placement and/or transaction data and/or information with such data and/or information being made

available to users of the apparatus 100. Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the teachings of Basic Business Statistics Concepts and Applications, Mark L. Berenson and David M. Levine, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Prentice Hall 1996.

The database 10H may also contain data and/or information concerning attrition rates at individual employers and/or hiring entities, as well as in different fields and/or market sectors, salary information, salary surveys for particular jobs, professions, etc., including salary, benefits, and/or other compensation, data and/or information for various experience levels, skill levels, skills and abilities, educational credentials, and/or other data and/or information which may be utilized by any of the individuals and/or employers described herein, by job or profession type, by market sector, by type of employer, and/or by location and/or geographic region.

The database 10H may also contain data and/or information regarding the latest developments and/or current developments in the employment and/or recruiting field, including, but not limited to, growth areas, demand information for certain jobs and/or professions, etc.





The database 10H can also contain any information needed for corresponding with any of the individuals, independent contractors, freelancers, employers and/or hiring entities, and/or recruiters, described herein, such as their respective addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, pager number, and/or any other information for facilitating a communication with any of these respective parties.

The database 10H can also include employer-related data and/or information, job and/or position-related information, individual, independent contractor and/or freelancer, data and/or information, recruiter, headhunter, and/or third party intermediary-related information, and/or any other data and/or information needed and/or desired for performing any of the herein-described methods and features of the present invention.

With reference once again to Figure 2, the central processing computer 10 also includes an output device 10I such as a printer, a modem, a fax/modem, or other output device, for providing data and/or information to the operator or user of the central processing computer 10 or to a third party or third party entity.

In the preferred embodiment, each of the individual computer(s) 20 and the employer computer(s) 30, include the same, similar, or analogous, components and/or peripheral devices as described herein for the central processing computer 10. In this manner, any individual computer(s) 20 or employer computer(s) 30, may be the same as, or be similar to, the central processing computer 10. In this regard, and depending upon the application and/or individual and/or employer requirements, each of the individual computer(s) 20 and/or each of the employer computer(s) 30 can have the same or similar components as the central processing computer 10.

Figure 3 illustrates the individual computer 20, in block diagram form. The individual computer 20, in the preferred embodiment, is a network computer or computer system which is utilized to access and/or to communicate with the central processing computer 10. In the preferred embodiment, the individual computer 20 includes a central processing unit or CPU 20A, which in the preferred embodiment, is a microprocessor. The CPU 20A may also be a microcomputer, a minicomputer, a macro-computer, and/or a mainframe computer, depending upon the application.



also contain data and/or information personal to an individual or group of individuals, as well as data and/or information concerning the work schedule(s) and/or work calendar(s) for the individual and/or group of individuals for which the individual computer(s) 20 is/are associated. This data and/or information can also include information concerning when the individual is scheduled to work and/or when the individual is available to take work assignments.

With reference once again to Figure 3, the individual computer 20 also includes an output device 20I such as a printer, a modem, a fax/modem, or other output device, for providing data and/or information to the operator or user of the individual computer 20 or to a third party or third party entity.

Figure 4 illustrates the employer computer 30, in block diagram form. The employer computer 30, in the preferred embodiment, is a computer or computer system which is utilized to access and/or to communicate with the central processing computer 10. In the preferred embodiment, the employer computer 30 includes a central processing unit or CPU 30A, which in the preferred embodiment, is a microprocessor. The CPU 30A may also be a microcomputer, a minicomputer, a macro-computer, and/or a mainframe computer, depending upon the application.

The employer computer 30 also includes a random access memory device(s) 30B (RAM) and a read only memory device(s) 30C (ROM), each of which is connected to the CPU 30A, a user input device 30D, for entering data and/or commands into the employer computer 30, which includes any one or more of a keyboard, a scanner, a user pointing device, such as, for example, a mouse, a touch pad, and/or an audio input device and/or a video input device, etc., if desired, which input device(s) are also connected to the CPU 30A. The employer computer 30 also includes a display device 30E for displaying data and/or information to a user or operator.

The employer computer 30 also includes a transmitter(s) 30F, for transmitting signals and/or data and/or information to any one or more of the central processing computer(s) 10 and individual computer(s) 20. The employer computer 30 also includes a receiver 30G, for receiving signals and/or data and/or information from any one or more of the central processing computer(s) 10 and/or the individual computer(s) 20.

The employer computer 30 also includes a database(s) 30H which can contain any and/or all of the data and/or information described herein with regards to the database

10H of the central processing computer 10. The database 30H can also contain data and/or information concerning a particular employer and/or hiring entity and/or groups of employers and/or hiring entities, as well as data and/or information concerning the work schedule(s) and/or work calendar(s), including project schedules and/or calendars, for the employer and/or hiring entity, or groups thereof, for which the employer computer 30 is associated. This data and/or information can also include information concerning when the employer may be in need of individuals, independent contractors, and/or freelancers, and/or when the employer and/or hiring entity may not be in need of same.

With reference once again to Figure 4, the employer computer 30 also includes an output device 30I such as a printer, a modem, a fax/modem, or other output device, for providing data and/or information to the operator or user of the individual computer 20 or to a third party or third party entity.

The databases 20H and 30H of the individual computer(s) 20 and the employer computer(s) 30, respectively, can contain any and/or all of the data and/or information which is stored and/or contained in the database 10H.

The database 10H, or collection of databases which form the database 10H, as well as any database 20H and/or 30H, and/or any other database(s) described herein, can be implemented by utilizing database software and/or spreadsheet software, such as, for example database software by Oracle®, Microsoft® Access® and/or Microsoft® Excel®, or any other suitable database or spreadsheet software programs and/or systems.

The data and/or information can be provided by the various employers, hiring entities, individuals, independent contractors, freelancers, applicants, recruiters, headhunters, third party intermediaries, and/or the operator and/or the administrator of the apparatus 100, and can be uploaded to, downloaded from, and/or be stored and/or be resident on any of the central processing computer(s) 10, the individual computer(s) 20, and/or the employer computer(s) 30.

In the preferred embodiment, wherein the apparatus 100 is utilized over the Internet and/or the World Wide Web, hyperlinks and/or other data and/or information links and/or linking methods and/or devices, can be utilized in order to provide an additional mechanism by which any of the individual computers 20 and/or any of the employer computers 30, can access and/or communicate with any other individual computer 20, employer computer 30 as well as



the central processing computer. Any and/or all of the central processing computer 10, the individuals computers 20, and/or the employer computers 30, describe herein, can also be linked to, and/or can access and/or communicate with, any external computer, computer system, and/or information source (not shown), including, but not limited to, school registrar office computers, recruiter computers, employment agency computer, in order to access and/o obtain information therefrom.

The apparatus 100 and the method of the present invention can be utilized to perform various recruitment and/or recruitment-related services and/or functions. The present invention can be utilized by an individual, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer, in order to search for, and/or to apply for, a job, a position, a project, and/or an assignment. The present invention can also be utilized by an employer and/or hiring entity in order to search for, and or to recruit, an individual, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer, in order to fill a job, a position, a project, and/or an assignment.

The present invention can also be utilized by a recruiter, a headhunter, and/or a third party intermediary, in order to assist a respective individual, independent contractor, and/or freelancer, search for a job, a position, a project,

and/or an assignment, as well as to assist an employer and/or a hiring entity to search for, and/or to recruit, an individual, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer, in order to fill a job, a position, a project, and/or an assignment.

The data and/or information which is stored in the database 10H, as well as stored in any of the databases 20H and/or 30H, can be linked via any suitable data linking techniques such as, for example, dynamically linked lists (DLLs), linked lists, and object links embedded (OLE's).

In any and all of the embodiments described herein, each of the individual computers 20, the central processing computer(s) 10 and the employer computers 30 can communicate with one another via electronic submissions, electronic form submissions and/or transmissions, e-mail transmissions, facsimile transmissions, telephone messages, telephone calls, physical mail delivery, and/or via any other suitable communication technique, medium, or method.

In any and all of the embodiments described herein, employers and other hiring entities can post and/or list information regarding jobs, employment positions, temporary positions, assignments, freelance assignments, contracting

assignments (hereinafter "jobs"), as well as any other assignments, projects, and/or efforts which require and/or which may require the services of individuals, independent contractors, freelancers, and/or temporary employees, etc.

Data and/or information regarding the above-described jobs, employment positions, assignments, etc., can be stored in the database 10H of the central processing computer 10. The data and/or information can also be stored in the database 20H of any individual computer 20 and/or in the database 30H of any employer computer 30.

Individuals, job applicants, prospective employees, employees, independent contractors, temporary workers, and/or freelancers, etc., can also post and/or list data and/or information regarding themselves with the database 10H of the central processing computer 10. As in the case with employers and/or hiring entities, data and/or information regarding these Individuals, job applicants, prospective employees, employees, independent contractors, temporary workers, and/or freelancers, etc., can also be stored in the database 20H of any individual computer 20 and/or in the database 30H of any employer computer 30.

Recruiters and/or other third party intermediaries described herein can also store data and/or information regarding any of the individuals, employers and/or hiring entities, whom they represent, which data and/or information can also be stored in the database 10H of the central processing computer 10 as well as the database 20h of the individual computer 20 and/or the database 30H of the employer computer 30. A recruiter or third party intermediary may utilize an individual computer 20 to access and/or utilize the present invention.

The apparatus and method of the present invention can be utilized in many preferred embodiments to provide job search services, recruitment services, and/or recruitment-related services. Figures 5A to 5E illustrate a preferred embodiment operation of the apparatus of Figure 1, in flow diagram form. Figures 5A to 5E illustrate a method for using the apparatus 100, for assisting individuals, job applicants, prospective employees, employees, independent contractors, temporary workers, and/or freelancers, etc. (hereinafter referred to collectively as "individual" or "individuals"), to perform job searches, for employment positions, contracting jobs, temporary assignments and/or freelance assignments (hereinafter referred to as a "job" or "jobs").



all data and/or information stored at step 202, and/or previously, can be stored in the database 10H of the central processing computer 10 and/or in the databases 20H and/or 30H, respectively, of the individual computer 20 and/or the employer computer 30, as appropriate. At step 203, the individual can choose to have the search proceed with specific data and/or information and/or generic data and/or information.

If, at step 204, it is determined that a search with specific data and/or information is selected, the central processing computer 10 will proceed to step 205 and proceed with the specific data and/or information. Thereafter, the operation will proceed to step 207. If, however, at step 204, it is determined that a search with specific data and/or information is not selected, the central processing computer 10 will proceed to step 206 and proceed with the generic and/or general data and/or information. Thereafter, the operation will proceed to step 207.

At step 207, the individual will enter his or her job search, including any search criteria, into the central processing computer 10 via the individual computer 20. At step 208, the central processing computer 10 will query the database of posted and/or listed jobs and generate a report or list of jobs which meet the individual's search criteria. At step 209, the central

processing computer 10 will provide the individual with the report or list of available jobs either electronically and/or otherwise. The results of the search can also be provided to the individual by being displayed on the display device 20E and/or by being printed via the output device or printer 20I.

Thereafter, the individual will decide whether he or she wishes to apply for any of the jobs. At step 210, the individual can transmit information to the central processing computer 10 regarding which, if any, of the reported jobs he or she wishes to apply for. At step 211, the central processing computer 10 will determine whether the individual wants to apply for any of the reported jobs. If, at step 211, it is determined that the individual does not want to apply for any of the reported jobs, the central processing computer 10 will, at step 212, record and/or store any and/or all data and/or information regarding and/or pertinent to the search and/or the corresponding results, up to this point, including the actions of the individual. The operation of the apparatus 100 will thereafter cease at step 213.

If, at step 211, it is determined that the individual wants to apply for a reported job, the operation will proceed to step 214. At step 215, the individual data and/or information,

whether specific, generic, and/or general, is transmitted to the employer and/or employer computer 30. Any data and/or information described as being transmitted between the parties, and/or between the respective computers, can be transmitted electronically, such as via e-mail, electronic message transmission, telephone call, telephone message, facsimile transmission, pager message, and/or physical mail delivery. The employer can review the data and/or information, at step 215, and transmit a response to the central processing computer 10 at step 216.

At step 217, the central processing computer 10 will process the employer's response and determine if the employer is interested in pursuing discussions with the individual. If, at step 217, it is determined that the employer is not interested in pursuing the individual, the central processing computer 10 will, at step 218, record and/or store any and/or all data and/or information regarding and/or pertinent to the search and/or the corresponding results, including information concerning the employer, the individual, the time and date of the consideration, along with any notes made by the employer or individual, up to this point.

The data and/or information stored at step 218 is stored in the database 10H for later use or reference by any individual,



employer, and/or operator or administrator of the apparatus 100. Some or all of the data and/or information stored in the database 10H may thereafter be transmitted to, and/or stored in, the database(s) 20H and/or 30H of the respective individual computer(s) 20 and/or employer computer(s) 30. The operation of the apparatus 100 will thereafter cease at step 219.

If, at step 217, it is determined that the employer is interested in pursuing discussions with the individual, then the central processing computer 10 will, at step 220, notify the individual by transmitting a message to the individual, and/or to the individual computer 20 associated with the individual, so notifying the individual. The individual can review the data and/or information, at step 220, and transmit a response to the central processing computer 10 at step 221. If the employer's response had included a request for additional and/or more specific data and/or information, such as, but not limited to, a resume, references, work samples, salary requirements, salary history, transcripts, and/or requests for authorization to obtain any of the above, and/or any other information of interest to the employer, the individual's response, at step 221, can include same and/or links to same. The operation of the apparatus will thereafter proceed to step 222.

At step 222, the central processing computer 10 will determine whether the individual is interested in pursuing the opportunity with the employer. If at step 222, it is determined that the individual is not interested in pursuing the opportunity, the central processing computer will, at step 223, record and/or store this information, along with any and/or all data and/or information regarding and/or pertinent to the search and/or the corresponding results, including information concerning the employer, the individual, the time and date of the consideration, along with any notes made by the employer or individual, up to this point. Thereafter, operation of the apparatus will cease at step 224.

If, at step 222, it is determined that the individual is interested in pursuing the opportunity, the data and/or information in the individual's response will, at step 225, be transmitted to the employer and/or the employer computer 30 associated with the employer. The employer can review the data and/or information, at step 225, and transmit a response to the central processing computer 10 at step 226. The response can include information as to whether the employer is interested in pursuing discussions with the individual.

At step 227, the central processing computer 10 will process the employer's response in order to determine if the employer is still interested in pursuing the opportunity regarding the individual. If, at step 227, it is determined that the employer is not interested in pursuing the opportunity regarding the individual, the central processing computer 10 will, at step 228, record and/or store this information, along with any and/or all data and/or information regarding and/or pertinent to the search and/or the corresponding results, including information concerning the employer, the individual, the time and date of the consideration, along with any notes made by the employer or individual, up to this point. Thereafter, the operation of the apparatus will cease at step 229.

If, at step 227, it is determined that the employer is interested in pursuing the opportunity with the individual, the central processing computer 10 will, at step 230, put the employer and the individual in contact with each other by transmitting contact information to either or both of the employer and/or the individual. The contact information may include the individual's name, address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail, and/or any other contact information for the individual, and/or the employer's name, address, person to contact, contact individual at the employer, telephone number, fax number, e-mail, and/or any

other contact information for the employer. The employer and the individual may thereafter proceed with the interview, employment screening, and/or recruitment, processes.

At step 231, the central processing computer 10 can monitor the interview, employment screening, and/or recruitment, processes, which take place between the employer and the individual. At step 232, the central processing computer 10 will record and/or store any and/or all data and/or information regarding and/or pertinent to the search and/or the corresponding results, including information concerning the employer, the individual, any information concerning whether a deal has been reached between the parties, any information concerning offers, counteroffers, rejected offers and/or rejected counteroffers, the time and date of the consideration, along with any notes made by the employer or individual, up to this point.

The data and/or information stored at step 232 is stored in the database 10H for later use or reference by any individual, employer, and/or operator or administrator of the apparatus 100. Some or all of the data and/or information stored in the database 10H may thereafter be transmitted to, and/or be stored in, the database(s) 20H and/or 30H of the respective individual

computer(s) 20 and/or employer computer(s) 30. The operation of the apparatus 100 will thereafter cease at step 233.

The operation of the apparatus 100 may be terminated by either the individual and/or the employer at any time. In this manner, a party may terminate discussions at any time. The individual and/or the employer may also, at any time, obtain information about, and/or perform research on, the opposite party by linking to said information and/or research via the central processing computer 10 and/or via links and/or hyperlinks which can be inserted in the various e-mails and/or electronic messages which are utilized and/or transmitted in conjunction with the present invention. The information and/or research can be obtained without interrupting the processing of the central processing computer 10. In this manner, a party may obtain information and/or research about the opposite party, at any time, and without interrupting the processing of the central processing computer 10.

The present invention in another preferred embodiment, can be utilized by an employer and/or hiring entity in order to search for and/or recruit individuals for jobs, employment positions, temporary assignments, projects, and/or freelance assignments, and/or for any other need. Figures 6A to 6E illustrate another

preferred embodiment operation of the apparatus of Figure 1, in flow diagram form. Figures 6A to 6E illustrate a method for using the apparatus 100, for assisting employers and/or hiring entities (hereinafter referred to as "employer") in searching for and/or for recruiting job applicants, prospective employees, employees, independent contractors, temporary workers, and/or freelancers, etc. (hereinafter referred to collectively as "individual"), to fill jobs, employment positions, contracting jobs, temporary assignments, freelance assignments, and/or other needs.

The operation of the apparatus 100 commences at step 300. At step 301, the employer accesses the central processing computer 10 via the employer computer 30. The employer may, at step 302, enter data and/or information regarding its requirements and/or needs, including, but not limited to, those related to hiring needs, and/or its requirements concerning educational credentials, skills, work experience, objectives, and/or any other data and/or information pertinent to a fulfilling its needs. Step 302 may be dispensed with if this information has been entered by the employer previously. The data and/or information can be entered specifically and/or generically. If entered specifically, the employer can also enter generic data and/or information to preserve confidentiality, if desired.

Data and/or information may also be entered into the central processing computer 10 by uploading and/or downloading, whichever the case may be, job descriptions and/or hiring needs and/or any other pertinent data and/or information. Data and/or information may also be obtained via a questionnaire which may be provided and/or answered on-line. Any and/or all of such data and/or information may be stored in the database 10H.

The central processing computer 10 can also process the specific data and/or information in order to convert and/or separately store same as generic data and/or information. Any and all data and/or information stored at step 302, and/or previously, can be stored in the database 10H of the central processing computer 10 and/or in the databases 20H and/or 30H, respectively, of the individual computer 20 and/or the employer computer 30, as appropriate. At step 303, the employer can choose to have the search proceed with specific data and/or information and/or generic data and/or information.

If, at step 304, it is determined that a search with specific data and/or information is selected, the central processing computer 10 will proceed to step 305 and proceed with the specific data and/or information. Thereafter, the operation will proceed to step 307. If, however, at step 304, it is

determined that a search with specific data and/or information is not selected, the central processing computer 10 will proceed to step 306 and proceed with the generic and/or general data and/or information. Thereafter, the operation will proceed to step 307.

At step 307, the employer will enter its recruitment search, including any search criteria, into the central processing computer 10 via the employer computer 30. At step 308, the central processing computer 10 will query the database of posted and/or listed individuals and generate a report or list of individuals who meet the employer's search criteria. At step 309, the central processing computer 10 will provide the employer with the report or list of available individuals either electronically and/or otherwise. The results of the search can also be provided to the employer by being displayed on the display device 30E and/or by being printed via the output device or printer 30I.

Thereafter, the employer will decide whether it wants to pursue any of the individuals identified in the search report. At step 310, the employer can transmit information to the central processing computer 10 regarding which, if any, of the reported individuals it wants to pursue. At step 311, the central processing computer 10 will determine whether the employer wants to pursue any of the individuals. If, at step 311, it is



determined that the employer does not want to pursue any of the individuals, the central processing computer 10 will, at step 312, record and/or store any and/or all data and/or information regarding and/or pertinent to the search and/or the corresponding results, up to this point, including the actions of the employer. The operation of the apparatus 100 will thereafter cease at step 213.

If, at step 311, it is determined that the employer wants to pursue an individual, the operation will proceed to step 314. At step 315, the employer data and/or information, whether specific, generic, and/or general, is transmitted to the individual and/or individual computer 20. Any data and/or information described as being transmitted between the parties, and/or between the respective computers, can be transmitted electronically, such as via e-mail, electronic message transmission, telephone call, telephone message, facsimile transmission, pager message, and/or physical mail delivery. The individual can review the data and/or information, at step 315, and transmit a response to the central processing computer 10 at step 316.

At step 317, the central processing computer 10 will process the individual's response and determine if the individual

is interested in pursuing discussions with the employer. If, at step 317, it is determined that the individual is not interested in pursuing the opportunity, the central processing computer 10 will, at step 318, record and/or store any and/or all data and/or information regarding and/or pertinent to the search and/or the corresponding results, including information concerning the employer, the individual, the time and date of the consideration, along with any notes made by the individual or employer, up to this point.

The data and/or information stored at step 318 is stored in the database 10H for later use or reference by any individual, employer, and/or operator or administrator of the apparatus 100. Some or all of the data and/or information stored in the database 10H may thereafter be transmitted to, and/or stored in, the database(s) 20H and/or 30H of the respective individual computer(s) 20 and/or employer computer(s) 30. The operation of the apparatus 100 will thereafter cease at step 319.

If, at step 317, it is determined that the individual is interested in pursuing discussions with the employer, then the central processing computer 10 will, at step 320, notify the employer by transmitting a message to the employer, and/or to the employer computer 30 associated with the employer, so notifying

the employer. The employer can review the data and/or information, at step 320, and transmit a response to the central processing computer 10 at step 321. If the individual's response had included a request for additional and/or more specific data and/or information, such as, but not limited to, job description, firm resume, references, work samples, salary and benefits information, and/or requests for authorization to obtain any of the above, and/or any other information of interest to the individual, the employer's response, at step 321, can include same and/or links to same. The operation of the apparatus will thereafter proceed to step 322.

At step 322, the central processing computer 10 will determine whether the employer is interested in pursuing the opportunity with the individual. If at step 322, it is determined that the employer is not interested in pursuing the opportunity, the central processing computer will, at step 323, record and/or store this information, along with any and/or all data and/or information regarding and/or pertinent to the search and/or the corresponding results, including information concerning the employer, the individual, the time and date of the consideration, along with any notes made by the employer or individual, up to this point. Thereafter, operation of the apparatus will cease at step 324.





counteroffers, rejected offers and/or rejected counteroffers, the time and date of the consideration, along with any notes made by the employer or the individual, up to this point.

The data and/or information stored at step 332 is stored in the database 10H for later use or reference by any employer, individual, and/or operator or administrator of the apparatus 100. Some or all of the data and/or information stored in the database 10H may thereafter be transmitted to, and/or be stored in, the database(s) 20H and/or 30H of the respective individual computer(s) 20 and/or employer computer(s) 30. The operation of the apparatus 100 will thereafter cease at step 333.

The operation of the apparatus 100 may be terminated by either the employer and/or the individual at any time. In this manner, a party may terminate discussions at any time. The employer and/or the individual may also, at any time, obtain information about, and/or perform research on, the opposite party by linking to said information and/or research via the central processing computer 10 and/or via links and/or hyperlinks which can be inserted in the various e-mails and/or electronic messages which are utilized and/or transmitted in conjunction with the present invention. The information and/or research can be obtained without interrupting the processing of the central

processing computer 10. In this manner, a party may obtain information and/or research about the opposite party, at any time, and without interrupting the processing of the central processing computer 10.

In another preferred embodiment, the present invention can be utilized to provide notification of job openings and/or job, contracting, freelancing, and/or temporary position, opportunities, to an individual an/or group of individuals. In this embodiment, the central processing computer 10 can be manually activated, automatically activated, and/or programmed for automatic activation, so as to perform searches of, and for, job openings and/or job, contracting, freelancing, and/or temporary position, opportunities, and provide an individual and/or group of individuals with notification of the availability of same.

Figure 7 illustrates another preferred embodiment operation of the apparatus of Figure 1, in flow diagram form. In the embodiment of Figure 7, the apparatus and method of the present invention is utilized so as to provide notification of job openings and/or job opportunities to an individual and/or a group of individuals. In this manner, the present invention can be utilized to inform an individual or individuals of job openings which may be of interest to him, her, or them, as the

jobs or positions are posted and/or listed with the apparatus 100 by an employer and/or hiring entity.

In the embodiment of Figure 7, an individual who desires to be notified of any of the herein described job openings, positions, assignments, contracts and/or projects, can list and/or provide their data and/or information, i.e., resume, educational qualifications, work experience, skills, references, work samples, and/or any other pertinent information, along with the type of job, work, project, and/or assignment, which they seek, with the apparatus 100 and, in particular, with the central processing computer 10, such as via the individual computer 20. Thereafter, the individual's data and/or information can be stored in the database 10H. Individuals posting or listing with the apparatus 100 may be subscribers, non-subscribers, and/or one-time and/or occasional or sporadic users of the apparatus 100.

The individual can also include information regarding the "searching event", the occurrence of which will trigger the central processing computer 10 to perform a job search for the individual and notify him or her of the results. The "searching event" can be pre-defined and/or be pre-specified as a date, a



time, a time interval(s), a time period(s), events and/or occurrences.

The "searching event" can be requested by an individual, individuals, an employer, employers, a hiring entity or entities, and/or a recruiter, and may be defined as the occurrence of a new job posting by an employer and/or employers, upon the posting of new and/or revised data and/or information from an individual and/or group of individuals, upon a news release of certain business events, employment-related events, economic reports, industry-specific news, and/or any other event which may create an interest on behalf of an employer to fill a position, and/or for an individual to seek a position, and/or upon the occurrence of any recruitment initiating event, the happening of which will activate the central processing computer 10. The central processing computer 10 will thereafter proceed to perform a job search of employers and/or jobs in order to identify jobs or opportunities which may be of interest to, and/or which may be a possible match for, the individual.

The individual can also provide information such as a telephone number(s), a facsimile number(s), a pager number(s), an electronic mail (e-mail) address or e-mail addresses, and/or any other information which will facilitate a communication from

the central processing computer 10 to the individual and/or the individual computer 20 associated with the individual. In this manner, the central processing computer 10 can communicate job openings and/or other opportunities which may be requested and/or which may be of interest to the individual. An employer can also provide similar, and/or analogous information to the central processing computer 10. Any and/or all of the data and/or information described herein as being provided by an individual, an employer, and/or a recruiter, can be stored in the database 10H.

In the embodiment of Figure 7, the apparatus 100 can be programmed so as to trigger the central processing computer 10 to perform a job search for an individual and, in this manner, any programmed job search activity and/or recruitment activity will commence upon the occurrence of the "searching event".

The operation of the apparatus 100 commences at step 400. At step 401, the searching event will occur thereby activating the central processing computer 10. Thereafter, at step 402, the central processing computer 10 will query the database 10H in order to perform a job search for the individual. The central processing computer 10 will thereafter, at step 403, generate a list or report of available jobs and/or employers which may meet

the individual's criteria, which may be of interest to the individual, and/or which may be a possible match for the individual.

At step 404, the list or report of jobs will be transmitted to the individual and/or to the individual computer 20 associated with the individual. The list or report can be transmitted electronically, such as via e-mail, electronic message transmission, telephone call, telephone message, facsimile transmission, pager message, and/or physical mail delivery. At step 405, the job search process between the individual and the employer will then proceed in the manner described in steps 210 through 233 of Figure 5, the description of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein. Thereafter, the operation of the apparatus 100 will cease at step 406.

In another preferred embodiment, the present invention can be utilized to provide notification of individuals, independent contractors, freelancers, and/or temporary workers, who are available for job openings, projects, freelance assignments, and/or temporary assignments, to an employer and/or hiring entity and/or to a group of employers and/or hiring entities. In this embodiment, the central processing computer 10 can be manually activated, automatically activated, and/or

programmed for automatic activation, so as to perform searches of, and for, individuals who may be candidates to fill the job openings and/or the requirements of the employers and/or hiring entities and provide an employer and/or group of employers with notification of the availability of these individuals.

Figure 8 illustrates another preferred embodiment operation of the apparatus of Figure 1, in flow diagram form. In the embodiment of Figure 8, the apparatus and method of the present invention is utilized so as to provide notification of individuals, who are available for applying for, and/or for interviewing for, job, job opportunities, and/or employer needs, to an employer and/or a group of employers. In this manner, the present invention can be utilized to inform an employer or employers of individuals whom may be candidates for, may be recruiting prospects for, and/or who may be interested in being notified about, any of the employer's jobs, job opportunities, and/or needs, which are posted and/or listed with the apparatus 100 by the employer or a representative.

In the embodiment of Figure 8, an employer who desires to be notified of an individual or individuals, who may be qualified and/or interested in filling a job or position, can list and/or provide data and/or information, regarding the job

openings, project openings, freelance assignments, and/or temporary assignments, including descriptions thereof, as well as the credentials required for filling and/or for being offered the respective job opening, project opening, freelance assignment, and/or temporary assignment, with the central processing computer 10.

The employer can also list and/or provide data and/or information about itself, a firm resume, salary structure, benefits packages, firm qualifications, firm references, work samples, and/or any other pertinent information, with the central processing computer 10, such as via the employer computer 30. Thereafter, the employer's data and/or information can be stored in the database 10H. Employers posting or listing jobs with the apparatus 100 may be subscribers, non-subscribers, and/or one-time and/or occasional or sporadic users of the apparatus 100.

The employer can also include information regarding the "searching event", the occurrence of which will trigger the central processing computer 10 to perform a recruitment search for the employer and notify the employer of the results. The "searching event" can be pre-defined and/or be pre-specified as a date, a time, a time interval(s), a time period(s), events and/or occurrences.

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2688 2689 2690 2691 2692 2693 2694 2695 2696 2697 2698 2699 2700 2701 2702 2703 2704 2705 2706 2707 2708 2709 2710 2711 2712 2713 2714 2715 2716 2717 2718 2719 2720 2721 2722 2723 2724 2725 2726 2727 2728 2729 2730 2731 2732 2733 2734 2735 2736 2737 2738 2739 2740 2741 2742 2743 2744 2745 2746 2747 2748 2749 2750 2751 2752 2753 2754 2755 2756 2757 2758 2759 2760 2761 2762 2763 2764 2765 2766 2767 2768 2769 2770 2771 2772 2773 2774 2775 2776 2777 2778 2779 2780 2781 2782 2783 2784 2785 2786 2787 2788 2789 2790 2791 2792 2793 2794 2795 2796 2797 2798 2799 2800 2801 2802 2803 2804 2805 2806 2807 2808 2809 2810 2

90

manner, the central processing computer 10 can communicate information regarding an individual and/or individuals whom may be of interest to the employer. An individual can also provide similar, and/or analogous information to the central processing computer 10. Any and/or all of the data and/or information described herein as being provided by an employer, an individual, and/or a recruiter, can be stored in the database 10H.

In the embodiment of Figure 8, the apparatus 100 can be programmed so as to trigger the central processing computer 10 to perform a recruitment search for an employer and, in this manner, any programmed recruitment search activity and/or recruitment activity will commence upon the occurrence of the "searching event".

The operation of the apparatus 100 commences at step 500. At step 501, the searching event will occur thereby activating the central processing computer 10. Thereafter, at step 502, the central processing computer 10 will query the database 10H in order to perform a recruitment search for the employer. The central processing computer 10 will thereafter, at step 503, generate a list or report of available individuals whom may meet the employer's criteria, which may be of interest to the employer, and/or which may be a possible match for the employer.

At step 504, the list or report of individuals will be transmitted to the employer and/or to the employer computer 30 associated with the employer. The list or report can be transmitted electronically, such as via e-mail, electronic message transmission, telephone call, telephone message, facsimile transmission, pager message, and/or physical mail delivery. At step 505, the recruitment search process between the employer and the individual will then proceed in the manner described in steps 310 through 333 of Figures 6A to 6E, the description of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein. Thereafter, the operation of the apparatus 100 will cease at step 506.

In any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, any electronic messages, such as e-mails, electronic message transmissions, pager messages, telephone calls or messages, facsimile transmissions, etc., described herein, can be generated and/or transmitted to any of the respective parties, in real-time, thereby providing real-time message transmission and/or notification services.

In any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, any electronic messages, such as e-mails, electronic message transmissions, pager messages, telephone calls or messages,



facsimile transmissions, etc., which are generated by the central processing computer 10, by the individual computer 20, and/or by the employer computer 30, may contain appropriate hyperlinks, and/or forwarding information, to the party sending the electronic message and/or e-mail, to a third party, to other information, and/or to another information source. In this manner, for example, an e-mail message, transmitted from and/or on behalf of an employer to an individual, can contain a hyperlink(s) to the employer's web site or web page.

The hyperlink(s) to the employer's web site or web page can provide the individual with a link to, and/or access to, information about the employer, links to a video presentation about the employer, the employer's departments, and/or any other information, video and/or photographs of the employer's facilities, information regarding certain employees, job descriptions, benefits, financial and operational data and/or information, salary information, travel-related service entities or travel agents for arranging travel to the employer for interview and/or other purposes, links to information sources regarding the locale and/or area where the employer is located, etc., and/or any other information which may be of interest to a job applicant and/or prospective employee.

Similarly, any electronic message and/or e-mail transmitted from and/or on the behalf of the individual can contain hyperlinks to additional data and/or information which may be of interest to the employer. This information may include the individual's resume, supplemental resume, supplemental information, references, letters of recommendation, links to the colleges, universities, and/or schools attended, links to pre-authorized letters/forms requesting transcripts from any schools attended, links to the registrar's office of the individual's schools, links to past employers, links to work samples, links to video presentations and/or a video clip of the individual and/or a photograph of the individual, and/or links to any other information which may be useful and/or desirable in the recruiting process.

In another preferred embodiment, including in any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the present invention can be utilized in order to allow employers and/or hiring entities to bid for the services of individuals, independent contractors, temporary workers, and/or freelancers. In a similar and/or analogous manner, an individual, independent contractor, temporary worker, and/or freelancer, may offer and/or auction his, her, or its, services to employers and/or hiring entities. Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject

matter of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No.

60/120,883 which teaches an apparatus and method for effectuating commerce in a network environment. Applicant also hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/498,143 which teaches an apparatus and method for effectuating commerce in a network environment.

In this manner, bidding and auctioning activities, related to job search activities, recruitment activities, and/or recruitment-related activities, can be utilized in order to fill and/or to obtain any job, employment position, project, and/or assignment, described herein.

When utilized to perform bidding and/or auctioning activities, the respective employer or individual can direct their respective bidding activity or activities and/or auctioning activity or activities to any single, group of, and/or combination of any, party, parties, individual, individuals, employer, employers, and/or hiring entity or hiring entities. The bidding and/or auctioning activities can be directed to a party, parties, individual, individuals, employer, employers, and/or hiring entity or hiring entities, which may be specified

by the respective initiating party and/or which may be obtained via any of the various search routines, described herein.

Any and/or all respective bidding activities and/or auctioning activities can be effected via e-mail messages, electronic message transmissions, pager messages, facsimile messages, telephone calls or messages, physical mail delivery, and/or via any other method, means and/or mode of communication.

Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter of U.S. Patent No. 5,862,223 which teaches a method and apparatus for a cryptographically-assisted commercial network system designed to facilitate and support expert-based commerce; the subject matter of U.S. Patent No. 5,797,127 which teaches a method, apparatus, and program for pricing, selling, and exercising options to purchase airline tickets; and U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207 which teaches a method and apparatus for a cryptographically assisted commercial network system designed to facilitate buyer-driven conditional purchase offers.

Applicant also hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter of U.S. Patent No. 5,884,272 which teaches a method and system for establishing and maintaining user-controlled anonymous communications; U.S. Patent No. 5,884,270

which teaches a method and system for facilitating an employment search incorporating user-controlled anonymous communications; U.S. Patent No. 5,832,497 which teaches an electronic automated information exchange and management system; U.S. Patent No. 5,758,324 which teaches a resume storage and retrieval system; U.S. Patent No. 5,696,702 which teaches a time and work tracker; U.S. Patent No. 5,416,694 which teaches a computer-based data integration and management process for workforce planning and occupational readjustment; and U.S. Patent No. 5,164,897 which teaches an automated method for selecting personnel matched job criteria.

In another preferred embodiment, including in any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the present invention can be utilized for providing scheduling services for, and/or on behalf of, any of the individuals and/or employers described herein. In this embodiment, the present invention can maintain work schedules, and/or scheduling data and/or information, of and for individuals, independent contractors, temporary workers, and/or freelancers. The present invention can also maintain the work schedules, and/or scheduling data and/or information, of and for employers and/or hiring entities, including dates and/or times when the employer and/or hiring entity will, or may, be in need of help or assistance which can be provided by any of the

individuals, independent contractors, temporary workers, and/or freelancers described herein.

The above-described schedules, and/or scheduling data and/or information, can be stored in the database 10H of the central processing computer 10. The schedules, and/or scheduling data and/or information, can also be stored and/or provided at any of the respective individual computers 20 and/or employer computers 30 described herein, and/or may be stored in any of the respective databases 20H and/or 30H.

An employer may utilize the schedules and/or scheduling data and/or information in order to reserve, engage, and/or request, the services of an individual. An employer can access the central processing computer 10 and access data and/or information concerning the work schedules of a certain individual and/or the work schedules of any number of individuals. The individual or individuals may be identified via a recruitment search as described herein and/or may be an individual and/or individuals already known by the employer and/or recommended to the employer. The employer may review the schedules and/or scheduling data and/or information until it identifies an individual and/or individuals who is or are acceptable and

available for the dates and/or times, as well as places, needed by the employer.

Once the employer locates an individual and/or individuals, the employer can reserve, engage, and/or request, the services of the individual or individuals by transmitting an appropriate message from the employer computer 30 to the central processing computer 10. The message can include the amount which the employer is willing to pay for the individual's services. Thereafter, the central processing computer 10 will transmit a message to the individual computer(s) 20 associated with the individual or individuals, and/or otherwise notify the individual or individual.

The individual or individuals may receive the message in real-time and/or otherwise. The individual or individuals may thereafter confirm the reservation, agree to the engagement, and/or reply to the request, respectively, via transmitting a message from the individual computer 20 to the central processing computer 10. Thereafter, the central processing computer 10 will transmit a message to the employer computer 30 of the employer, thereby notifying the employer of the confirmed reservation, the confirmed agreement to the engagement, and/or the reply, respectively. Thereafter, the employer and the individual or

individuals can be put into contact with one another and/or contact one another as they see fit.

In another embodiment, the central processing computer 10 can be programmed to confirm a reservation, agree to an engagement, and/or issue a reply, respectively, for, or on behalf, of an individual or individuals.

In another preferred embodiment, the central processing computer 10 can be programmed to provide an employer with conditions under which the individual and/or individuals will agree to a reservation, an engagement, and/or a request. One of these conditions can include payment in advance, a down payment, and/or an option payment, for the services of the individual or individuals. In this embodiment, the central processing computer 10 can administer and/or maintain a financial account for, or on behalf of any of, the individuals and/or employers described herein. The financial accounts may be bank accounts, electronic money accounts, credit accounts, debit account, and/or any other accounts for facilitating financial transactions. The central processing computer 10 can make a payment and/or transfer, on behalf of an employer, from the employer's account, to an individual's account or to accounts of individuals, thereby



receiving payment for, or on behalf of, the individual or individuals, whichever the case may be.

As noted above, the employer may also secure and/or reserve the services of an individual, by purchasing an option from the individual, or person or entity representing the individual, for the respective individual's services, with the price of said option being determined by using conventional financial options pricing models and/or methods. Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter of Options, Futures, and Other Derivatives, Third Edition, by John C. Hull, Prentice Hall, 1997.

An individual may utilize the schedules and/or scheduling data and/or information in order to offer services to an employer. An individual can access the central processing computer 10 and access data and/or information concerning the work schedules or needs of an employer or any number of employers. The employer or employers may be identified via a job search as described herein and/or may be an employer and/or employers already known by the individual and/or recommended to the individual. The individual may review the schedules and/or scheduling data and/or information, until it identifies an

employer and/or employers may be in need of the individual's services.

Once the individual locates an employer and/or employers, the individual can offer the individual's services to the employer or employers by transmitting an appropriate message from the individual computer 20 to the central processing computer 10. The message or offer can include the individual's fee or the amount of charge for the services. Thereafter, the central processing computer 10 will transmit a message to the employer computer(s) 30 associated with the employer or employers, and/or otherwise notify the employer or employers.

The employer or employers may receive the message in real-time and/or otherwise. The employer or employers may thereafter accept or reject the offer via transmitting a message from the employer computer 30 to the central processing computer 10. Thereafter, the central processing computer 10 will transmit a message to the individual computer 20 of the individual, thereby notifying the individual of the acceptance or rejection of its offer. Thereafter, the individual and the employer or employers can be put into contact with one another and/or contact one another as they see fit.

In another embodiment, the central processing computer 10 can be programmed to accept or reject, an offer to provide services, for, or on behalf, of an employer or employers.

In another preferred embodiment, the central processing computer 10 can be programmed to provide an individual with conditions under which the employer and/or employers will accept an offer. One of these conditions can be that a bond or guarantee must be posted for guaranteeing that the services will be performed as agreed upon. In this embodiment, the central processing computer 10 can administer and/or maintain a financial account for, or on behalf of any of, the individuals and/or employers described herein.

The financial accounts may be bank accounts, electronic money accounts, credit accounts, debit account, and/or any other accounts for facilitating financial transactions. The central processing computer 10 can make a payment and/or transfer, on behalf of an individual, from the individual's account, to an employer's account or to accounts of employers, thereby receiving payment for, or on behalf of, the employer or employers, whichever the case may be.

The individual may also secure a job, position, project, and/or assignment, by purchasing an option for same from the employer, or a representative of the employer, with the price of said option being determined by using conventional financial options pricing models and/or methods.

In another preferred embodiment, as well as in any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the present invention can generate electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons for use by employers, to publicize and/or to advertise jobs, employment positions, projects and/or assignments, which they wish to fill, and/or by individuals, employment agencies and/or their agents and/or representatives, to publicize and/or to advertise their services, and/or the services of those who they represent, as well as their respective availability and/or desire to perform and/or to fill and/or assume a job, employment position, project and/or assignment.

In this manner, an employer can generate and/or distribute electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons, thereby publicizing and/or advertising any jobs, positions, projects and/or assignments, and electronically distribute same to individuals and/or employment agencies who or which can be identified by querying the database 10H and/or by utilizing any

other appropriate search method and/or criteria. Individuals, and/or their representative(s), and/or employment agencies, may generate and/or distribute electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons in order to publicize and/or to advertise the individual's credentials, services, availability, and/or desire, to fill or assume a job, position, project, and/or assignment, to employers and/or hiring entities.

Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter and teachings of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/137,689 which teaches an apparatus and method for providing an electronic catalog and/or an electronic coupon. Applicant also hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter and teachings of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/579,358 which teaches an apparatus and method for providing an electronic catalog and/or an electronic coupon.

Any and/or all of the electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons described herein can be generated and/or transmitted as e-mail messages and/or electronic message transmissions and can include text information, resume information, video information and/or audio information.

Any and/or all of the electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons described herein can be generated automatically by the central processing computer 10 and/or by any individual computers 20 and/or employer computers 30. Any of the central processing computer 10, the individual computer(s) 20 and/or the employer computer(s) 30 can be programmed to generate and/or to transmit any of the e-mails, electronic message transmissions, electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons described herein.

In another preferred embodiment, the apparatus and method of the present invention can be utilized for performing and/or for facilitating the provision of recruitment services for schools, colleges, universities, and/or any organizations of any kind. In this embodiment, information in the form of text messages, video messages, audio messages, video clips, audio clips, infomercials, electronic catalogs, e-mail messages, etc., for publicizing and/or for promoting any of the herein-described schools, colleges, universities, and/or any organizations of any kind, can be stored at the central processing computer 10 and can be provided to any individuals who or which utilizes the apparatus and method of the present invention.

The apparatus and method of the present invention can also provide and/or facilitate the provision of any of the herein-described recruiting and/or recruitment services for attracting individuals to, and/or recruiting individuals for, any of the respective schools, colleges, universities, and/or any organizations of any kind.

Any and/or all of the e-mails, electronic message transmissions, electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons, described herein, can be generated, transmitted and/or distributed, in response to a posting of a new job, a new employment position, a new project, and/or a new assignment, a listing and/or a posting of an individual(s), changes to the employment status, resume, skills, educational status, etc., of an individual(s), the occurrence of an event concerning the economy, the work needs of individuals, the needs of employers and/or hiring entities, and/or at specific times, at specified time intervals, and/or upon the occurrence of any event and/or occurrence which can be the basis for initiating a job search and/or a recruitment search.

In another preferred embodiment, as well as in any of the embodiments described herein, intelligent agents, software agents, mobile agents, and/or related technologies, can be

utilized in conjunction with the present invention. The respective intelligent agent(s), software agent(s), mobile agent(s), (hereinafter referred to collectively as "intelligent agent" or "intelligent agents") can be programmed and/or designed to act on behalf of a respective individual, employer and/or hiring entity, so as to perform any of the job searches, recruitment searches, and/or any of the other activities and/or functions described herein. The intelligent agent can act on behalf of the individual, employer and/or hiring entity, in various related interactions, negotiations, and/or other activities which are described as being performed herein and/or which may be incidental and/or related thereto.

An individual can utilize an intelligent agent(s) in order to find, identify, and/or locate a job, position, project and/or assignment. In a similar and/or an analogous manner, the employer and/or hiring entity can utilize an intelligent agent(s) in order to find and/or locate individuals to fill a job, position, project and/or assignment.

Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter of the Agent Sourcebook, A Complete Guide to Desktop, Internet and Intranet Agents, by Alper Caglayan and Colin Harrison, Wiley Computer Publishing, 1997. Applicant also



incorporates by reference herein the subject matter of Cool Intelligent Agents For The Net, by Leslie L. Lesnick with Ralph E. Moore, IDG Books Worldwide, Inc. 1997.

In any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the present invention can provide links and/or hyperlinks, on-line, on-screen, in e-mail messages and/or in electronic message transmissions, and/or otherwise, to any and/or all products and/or services related to job searching and/or recruiting. For example, the present invention can provide links to information regarding the location of an employer, links to a travel agent, links to transportation companies, rental car companies, hotels and other lodging establishments, as well as links to resume services, employment agencies, recruiters, temporary agencies, etc.

The present invention can also provide links to attorneys, banks, financial institutions, insurance companies, bonding companies, etc., and/or other individuals and/or entities, the services of whom or which may be needed and/or may be recommended when hiring an individual, an independent contractor, a temporary worker, and/or a freelancer, and/or when accepting and/or assuming responsibility, respectively, for a job, a position, a project and/or an assignment.

The present invention can also provide for the automatic notification of job openings, position openings, projects, and/or assignments, the availability of individuals, job applicants, independent contractors, and/or freelancers, and/or the availability of goods and/or service providers, to any of the respective parties described herein who may utilize the present invention.

In another preferred embodiment, as well as in any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the present invention can provide an individual, employer and/or hiring entity, with data and/or information concerning attrition rates at individual employers and/or hiring entities, as well as salary information, including salary surveys for particular jobs, professions, etc., including salary, benefits, and/or other compensation, data and/or information for various experience levels, skill levels, skills and abilities, educational credentials, and/or other data and/or information which may be utilized by the individuals, employers and/or employer entities, and/or recruiters, described herein.

The above-described data and/or information can be provided by job or profession type, by market sector, by type of



and/or has been, requested about them. The present invention can also provide the identity of the requesting party to the respective individual, employer and/or hiring entity. For example, an individual can be notified that company A has requested information about him or her. Similarly, an employer can be notified that an individual and/or a certain individual has requested information about it. The present invention may also maintain any and/or all information requests as confidential, if so requested.

In this embodiment, any and/or all of the data and/or information described herein, may be provided, requested, and/or accessed, by any of the respective parties. Any such notification embodiments can also provide for the blockage of any such notification by a requesting party. Also, any and/or all information utilized and/or provided in any such notification embodiments can also be provided as group information, generic information, and/or as information representative of a group, or a trend.

In any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the present invention can also provide data and/or information, which may be transmitted and/or provided to any of the respective individuals, employers and/or hiring entities, to any number of,

or groups of, third party or other individuals, employers, and/or hiring entities.

The present invention can be utilized by any individual, employer and/or hiring entity. The present invention can also be utilized by a recruiter, a recruiting entity, a headhunter, an agent, an employment agency, etc., in representing an individual, an independent contractor, and/or a freelancer. For example, a recruiter can utilize the present invention in order to assist others in finding jobs, positions, projects and/or assignments, and/or to assist employers and/or hiring entities to find individuals to fill jobs, positions, projects and/or assignments.

The present invention can also be utilized in order to prevent certain individuals and/or entities, employers and/or hiring entities, from accessing the data and/or information about any other individual, entity, employer, and/or hiring entity. For example, an individual can prevent access, to his or her data and/or information, by a present employer, a past employer, and/or any other individual, entity, employer and/or hiring entity identified by the individual, specifically, generically, and/or generally. In this manner, an individual can prevent a present employer and/or any other individual, entity, employer and/or hiring entity, from learning about his or her job search

and/or availability. Similarly, an employer and/or hiring entity can prevent certain individuals, entities, employers, and/or hiring entities, from learning of its recruitment efforts and/or human resource and/or employment needs.

Access restrictions to any data and/or information can be effected by utilizing any data and/or information security and/or access prevention methods, technologies and/or techniques, known by those skilled in the pertinent arts.

In any and/or all of the herein-described embodiments, the operation of the present invention may be triggered by any type of pre-specified event and/or occurrence which may include a new individual listing, a new employer and/or hiring entity listing, a departure of an individual from the employ of another, the completion of a job, project and/or assignment, changes in an economic factor(s), changes in a market factor(s), an increase in an unemployment rate, the unemployment of an individual, a detected need for jobs of a certain skill, and/or any other event, situation, and/or occurrence which may be pertinent and/or related to job searching efforts and/or recruitment efforts.

The apparatus of the present invention, in any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, can also be programmed to be self-activating and/or activated automatically.

The apparatus of the present invention can also be programmed in order to automatically generate and/or transmit any of the e-mails, electronic message transmissions, electronic notification transmissions, and/or any of the communications, which are described herein, between any of the parties which utilize the present invention.

In another preferred embodiment, as well as in any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the present invention can be utilized in order to monitor, record, and/or keep track of, any offers and/or rejections of offers, involving any jobs, employment positions, projects and/or assignments, which occur in conjunction with and/or via use of the present invention. The information which is obtained can thereafter be provided to individuals, employers, and/or recruiters, for utilization in any appropriate and/or suitable manner.

In any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, any individual and/or employer data and/or information can be stored with various and/or varying levels of specificity and/or

confidentiality. In this manner, any of the data and/or information described herein, can be filtered, can be released at varying times, depending upon the interest and/or comfort levels of the parties, and/or can be maintained as confidential. In this manner, the respective parties can maintain confidentiality and/or can exercise control over the nature and amount of data and/or information which can be released about themselves.

The apparatus and /or method of the present invention can be utilized as an electronic and/or network-based job searching and/or recruitment searching apparatus and/or clearinghouse. Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/132,301 which teaches an apparatus and method for monitoring an advertisement and/or an advertisement location.

In any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, any interactions, negotiations, and/or deals reached, between any of the parties, can be monitored and/or be recorded by the central processing computer 10 and be stored in the database 10H. In this regard, any interviews, interactions, communications, actions and responses thereto, offers, counter-offers, acceptances and/or rejections, can be recorded and/or be stored



and utilized in any manner consistent with the operation and/or use of the present invention as described herein.

The present invention, in any and/or all of the herein-described embodiments, can utilize electronic commerce technologies and security methods, techniques and technologies, as described and as set forth in Electronic Commerce Technical, Business, and Legal Issues, Nabil R. Adam, et al. Prentice Hall, 1999 and Web Security & Commerce, Simson Garfinkel with Gene Spafford, O'Reilly 1997, the subject matter of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

The communications networks and/or systems on, or over, which the present invention may be utilized, can include any one or combination of telecommunication networks or systems, satellite communication networks or systems, radio communication networks or systems, digital communication networks or systems, digital satellite communication networks or systems, personal communications services networks or systems, cable television networks or systems, broadband communication networks or systems, low earth orbiting satellite (LEOs) networks or systems, as well as in, or on any internets and/or intranets, the Internet, the World Wide Web, and any other suitable communication network or system.

Any and/or all of the data and/or information described herein can be compiled and processed using statistical calculations in order to update the stored data and/or information with such data and/or information being made available to the respective individuals, employers and/or hiring entities, who or which utilize the present invention.

Any and/or all of the data and/or information described herein, which is stored in the database 10H, or in the collection of databases, can be linked via relational database techniques and/or via any appropriate database management techniques. The data and/or information, in the preferred embodiments, can be updated via inputs from the respective individuals, employers and/or hiring entities, and/or administrator or operator of the apparatus 100 and/or the central processing computer 10. The above-described updates can also be provided from other information sources via the communication network.

The data and/or information stored in the database 10H, or in the collection of databases, and/or any other databases utilized in conjunction with the present invention, can be updated by each of the respective individuals, employers and/or hiring entities, and/or administrator or operator of the

apparatus 100 or the central processing computer 10, in real-time, and/or via dynamically linked database management techniques.

The data and/or information which is stored in the database 10H and/or which may be otherwise utilized with, and/or in conjunction with, the apparatus and method of the present invention, can be linked via any suitable data linking techniques such as, for example, dynamically linked lists (DLLs), linked lists, and object links embedded (OLE's). Any suitable database management technique(s) may also be utilized in conjunction with the present invention.

The present invention can be utilized in conjunction with job searches, recruitment searches, and/or related activities, for any kind of job, service, vocation, profession, employment position, independent contractor project, project, freelance assignment, assignment, and/or any other kind or variety of work or services, permanent and/or temporary, and/or regardless of duration and/or type.

The present invention provides an apparatus and a method for providing automated job searching services, recruitment services, and/or employment agent and/or agency services, in a

network environment, while reducing the time, expense and effort needed in performing these services.

The present invention can also be utilized in conjunction with electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons in order to provide electronic catalogs and/or electronic coupons containing information regarding any of the job search applicants, prospective employees, independent contractors, employers, assignments, available jobs or positions, contract positions, contracting assignments, employment agency services, and/or other individuals and/or entities described herein, so as to advertise the availability or existence of the respective individuals and/or entities. Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter and teachings of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/137,689 entitled "APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING AN ELECTRONIC CATALOG AND/OR AN ELECTRONIC COUPON". Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the subject matter and teachings of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/579,358 entitled "APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING AN ELECTRONIC CATALOG AND/OR AN ELECTRONIC COUPON".

The present invention can be utilized in conjunction with any job, assignment, position, employment position, service, contracting assignment, and/or any independent contracting

position and/or freelance position, which can be the subject of commerce.

The present invention can be utilized, in any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, in conjunction with the buying, selling, bartering and/or trading, of services between the various parties, individuals, employers, and/or hiring entities described herein.

The present invention can be utilized in order to reduce recruiting efforts, costs and fees, such as headhunter fees, agency fees, broker fees, and/or representative fees, and can eliminate the inefficiencies which may result from dealing with intermediaries in job search efforts and/or recruitment efforts.

The present invention also provides an apparatus and a method for providing enhanced confidentiality during job search activities, assignment search activities, recruitment activities, and/or related activities, interactions, negotiations and/or other dealings, between the respective parties involved.

While the present invention has been described and illustrated in various preferred and alternate embodiments, such descriptions are merely illustrative of the present invention and

are not to be construed to be limitations thereof. In this regard, the present invention encompasses all modifications, variations and/or alternate embodiments, with the scope of the present invention being limited only by the claims which follow.

## CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An apparatus for providing job-searching services, recruitment services, or recruitment-related services, comprising:

a processor for processing a request for at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search, wherein said processor generates a search report containing at least one of at least one job opening, at least one assignment opening, and at least one candidate;

a transmitter for transmitting said search report to at least one of an individual requesting said job search, an individual requesting said assignment search, an employer requesting said recruitment search, and a hiring entity requesting said recruitment search; and

a receiver for receiving a reply from the at least one of an individual requesting said job search, an individual requesting said assignment search, an employer requesting said recruitment search, and a hiring entity requesting said recruitment search;

wherein said processor processes said reply and generates a first message, wherein said first message is transmitted to a party identified in said search report, and further wherein said receiver receives a second message from said party identified in said search report, and further wherein said processor generates a third message, wherein said third message is transmitted to the at least one of the individual requesting said job search, the individual requesting said assignment search, an employer requesting said recruitment search, and a hiring entity requesting said recruitment search, and further wherein said third message contains information regarding at least one of an interest in, and a lack of interest for, the at least one of the job opening, the assignment opening, and the at least one candidate.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a first communication device associated with the at least one of an individual requesting said job search, the individual requesting the assignment search, the employer requesting said recruitment search, and a hiring entity requesting said recruitment search; and



a second communication device associated with the party identified in the search report.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a memory device, wherein said memory device further comprises a database for storing information regarding at least one of job openings, job descriptions, assignment openings, assignment descriptions, employers, hiring entities, individuals, job candidates, resumes of individuals, and credentials of individuals, independent contractors, resumes of independent contractors, and credentials of independent contractors.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor at least one of performs a database search in response to said request for at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search, performs a database query in response to said request for at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search, performs a screening process of at least one of an individual's credentials and an employer's credentials, facilitates an introduction of at least one of an individual to an employer and an employer to an individual, and determines whether one of specific information and generic

information is provided in response to said at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search.

5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said memory device stores information regarding at least one of an individual, an independent contractor, an employer, a hiring entity, the job search, the search report, and an outcome resulting from the introduction of at least one of the individual to the employer, the employer to the individual, the independent contractor to the employer, the employer to the independent contractor, the individual's transcript, the individual's work experience, the individual's credentials, the individual's skills, the independent contractor's transcript, the independent contractor's work experience, the independent contractor's credentials, the independent contractor's skills, the employer, the description of a job, employer salary information, and employer benefits information.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor processes said request for at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search, in conjunction with at least one of work schedule information regarding at least one at least one of an individual and an independent contractor, and

work schedule information regarding at least of an employer and a hiring entity.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus at least one of administers and manages a financial account for at least one of an individual, an independent contractor, an employer, and a hiring entity, and processes financial transactions for at least one of at least one of an individual, an independent contractor, and an employer.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus records an outcome from an introduction of at least one of at least one of an individual to an employer, an independent contractor to an employer, an employer to an individual, and an employer to an independent contractor.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is programmed to at least one of perform programmed job searches for individuals, perform assignment searches for independent contractors, and perform recruitment searches for at least one of employers and hiring entities.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor generates at least one of an electronic catalog and an electronic coupon.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is an agent-based apparatus utilizing at least one of an intelligent agent, a software agent, and a mobile agent.

12. A method for providing job-searching services, recruitment services, or recruitment-related services, comprising:

processing a request for at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search;

generating a search report containing at least one of at least one job opening, at least one assignment opening, and at least one candidate;

transmitting said search report to at least one of an individual requesting said job search, an individual requesting said assignment search, an employer, and a hiring entity, requesting said recruitment search;

receiving a reply from the at least one of an individual requesting said job search, an individual requesting said assignment search, an employer requesting said recruitment search, and a hiring entity requesting said recruitment search;

processing said reply;

generating a first message, wherein said first message is transmitted to a party identified in said search report;

receiving a second message from said party identified in said search report;

generating a third message;

transmitting said third message to the at least one of the individual requesting said job search, the individual requesting said assignment search, an employer requesting said recruitment search, and a hiring entity requesting said recruitment search, and further wherein said third message contains information regarding at least one of an interest in, and a lack of interest for, the at least one of the job opening, the assignment opening, and the at least one candidate.

13. An apparatus for providing job-searching services, recruitment services, or recruitment-related services, comprising:

a memory device for storing information regarding at least one of individuals, independent contractors, employers, hiring entities, jobs, job openings, assignments, assignment openings, and criteria for performing at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search;

a processor for processing at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search, at least one of upon the occurrence of a searching event, a request by an individual, a request by an independent contractor, and a request of an employer, wherein said processor generates a search report in response to said at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search; and

a transmitter for transmitting said search report to a communication device associated with at least one of an individual, an independent contractor, an employer, and a hiring entity.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said processor at least one of monitors at least one of an interaction with and a negotiation between at least one of an individual and an independent contractor and at least one of an employer and a hiring entity, records an outcome of at least one of an interaction with and a negotiation between at least one of an individual and an independent contractor and at least one of an employer and a hiring entity, and facilitates the establishment of at least one of a relationship, an employment relationship, and an independent contractor relationship between at least one of an individual and an independent contractor and at least one of an employer and a hiring entity.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said processor at least one of administers a financial account for at least one of an individual, an independent contractor, an employer, and a hiring entity, manages a financial account for at least one of an individual, an independent contractor, an employer, and a hiring entity, effects a financial transaction for at least one of an individual, an independent contractor, an employer, and a hiring entity, and effects a contractual relationship for at least one of an individual, an independent contractor, an employer, and a hiring entity,

16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said searching event is defined by at least one of an individual, an independent contractor, an employer, and a hiring entity.

17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said processor processes said request for at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search, in conjunction with at least one of work schedule information regarding at least one at least one of an individual and an independent contractor, and work schedule information regarding at least of an employer and a hiring entity.

18. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said processor generates at least one of an electronic catalog and an electronic coupon.

19. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said apparatus is an agent-based apparatus utilizing at least one of an intelligent agent, a software agent, and a mobile agent.

20. A method for providing job-searching services, recruitment services, or recruitment-related services, comprising:



storing information regarding at least one of individuals, independent contractors, employers, hiring entities, jobs, job openings, assignments, assignment openings, and criteria for performing at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search;

processing at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search, at least one of upon the occurrence of a searching event, a request by an individual, a request by an independent contractor, and a request of an employer;

generating a search report in response to said at least one of a job search, an assignment search, and a recruitment search; and

transmitting said search report to a communication device associated with at least one of an individual, an independent contractor, an employer, and a hiring entity.

1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
2036	2037	2038	2039	2040
2041	2042	2043	2044	2045
2046	2047	2048	2049	2050
2051	2052	2053	2054	2055
2056	2057	2058	2059	2060
2061	2062	2063	2064	2065
2066	2067	2068	2069	2070
2071	2072	2073	2074	2075
2076	2077	2078	2079	2080
2081	2082	2083	2084	2085
2086	2087	2088	2089	2090
2091	2092	2093	2094	2095
2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
2101	2102	2103	2104	2105
2106	2107	2108	2109	2110
2111	2112	2113	2114	2115
2116	2117	2118	2119	2120
2121	2122	2123	2124	2125
2126	2127	2128	2129	2130
2131	2132	2133	2134	2135
2136	2137	2138	2139	2140
2141	2142	2143	2144	2145
2146	2147	2148	2149	2150
2151	2152	2153	2154	2155
2156	2157	2158	2159	2160
2161	2162	2163	2164	2165
2166	2167	2168	2169	2170
2171	2172	2173	2174	2175
2176	2177	2178	2179	2180
2181	2182	2183	2184	2185
2186	2187	2188	2189	2190
2191	2192	2193	2194	2195
2196	2197	2198	2199	2200
2201	2202	2203	2204	2205
2206	2207	2208	2209	2210
2211	2212	2213	2214	2215
2216	2217	2218	2219	2220
2221	2222	2223	2224	2225
2226	2227	2228	2229	2230
2231	2232	2233	2234	2235
2236	2237	2238	2239	2240
2241	2242	2243	2244	2245
2246	2247	2248	2249	2250
2251	2252	2253	2254	2255
2256	2257	2258	2259	2260
2261	2262	2263	2264	2265
2266	2267	2268	2269	2270
2271	2272	2273	2274	2275
2276	2277	2278	2279	2280
2281	2282	2283	2284	2285
2286	2287	2288	2289	2290
2291	2292	2293	2294	2295
2296	2297	2298	2299	2300
2301	2302	2303	2304	2305
2306	2307	2308	2309	2310
2311	2312	2313	2314	2315
2316	2317	2318	2319	2320
2321	2322	2323	2324	2325
2326	2327	2328	2329	2330
2331	2332	2333	2334	2335
2336	2337	2338	2339	2340
2341	2342	2343	2344	2345
2346	2347	2348	2349	2350
2351	2352	2353	2354	2355
2356	2357	2358	2359	2360
2361	2362	2363	2364	2365
2366	2367	2368	2369	2370
2371	2372	2373	2374	2375
2376	2377	2378	2379	2380
2381	2382	2383	2384	2385
2386	2387	2388	2389	2390
2391	2392	2393	2394	

[illegible]

job search, the individual requesting the assignment search, an employer requesting the recruitment search, and a hiring entity requesting the recruitment search. The third message contains information regarding at least one of an interest in, and a lack of interest for, the at least one of the job opening, the assignment opening, and the at least one candidate.

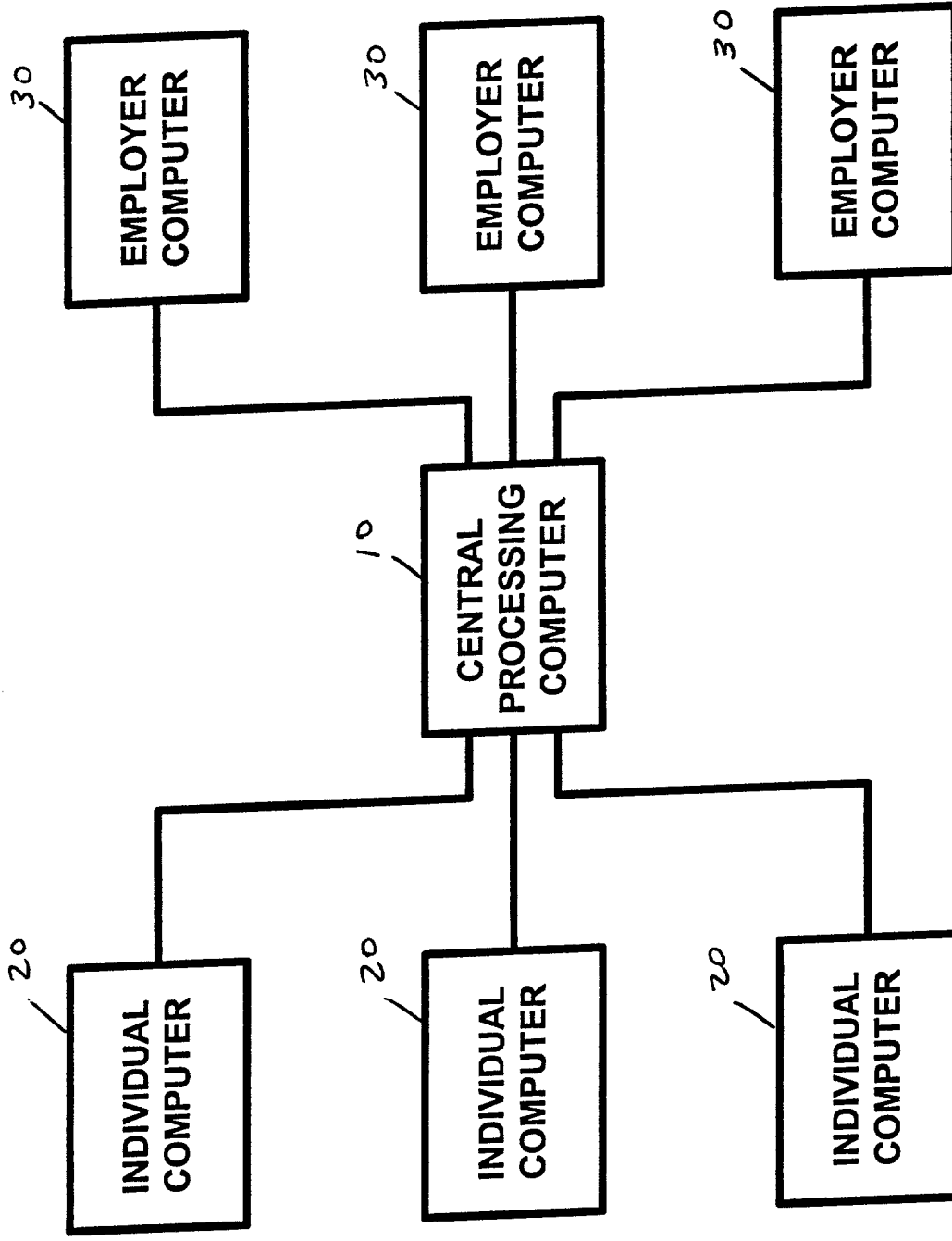
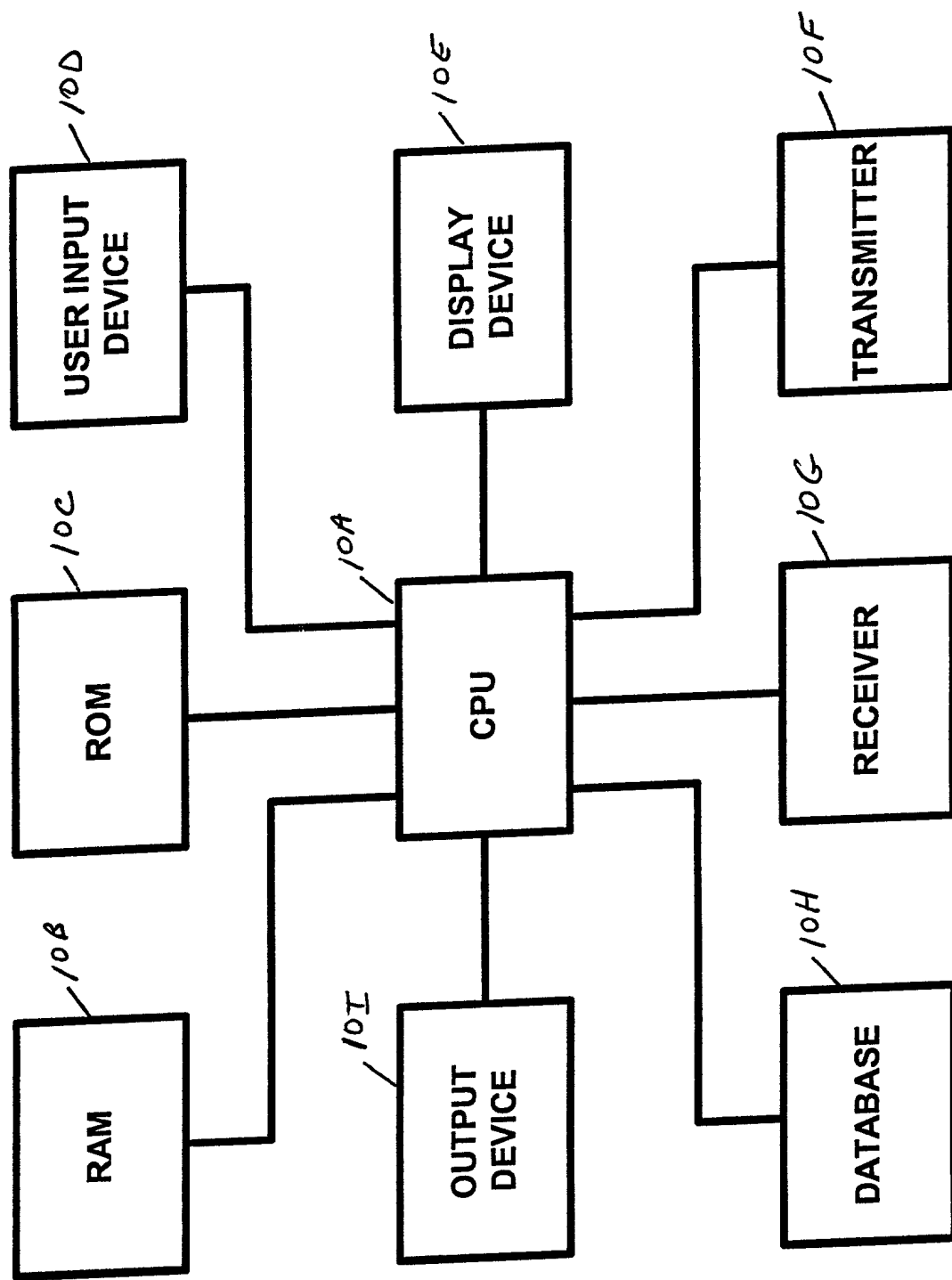
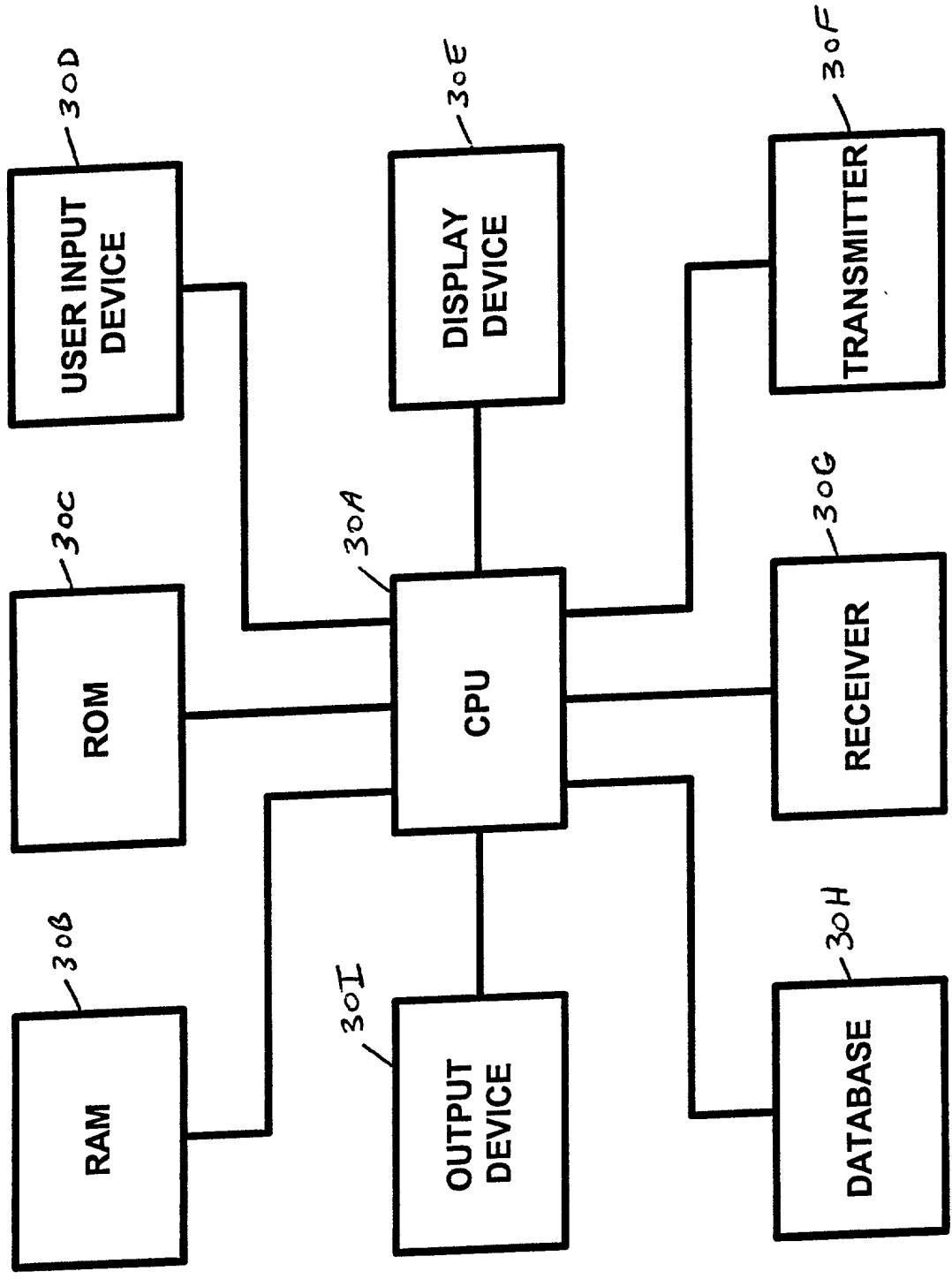


FIG. 1



**FIG. 2**





30-

FIG. 4

START — 200

ACCESS CENTRAL  
PROCESSING COMPUTER — 201

ENTER DATA AND/OR INFORMATION — 202

SELECT SPECIFIC  
OR GENERIC  
INFORMATION — 203

```

graph LR
    204{204  
IS SPECIFIC  
INFORMATION  
SELECTED?} -- NO --> NextStep
  
```

YES / 205  
PROCEED WITH SPECIFIC INFORMATION

```

graph TD
    206[PROCEED WITH  
GENERIC INFORMATION]
  
```

ENTER JOB SEARCH — 207

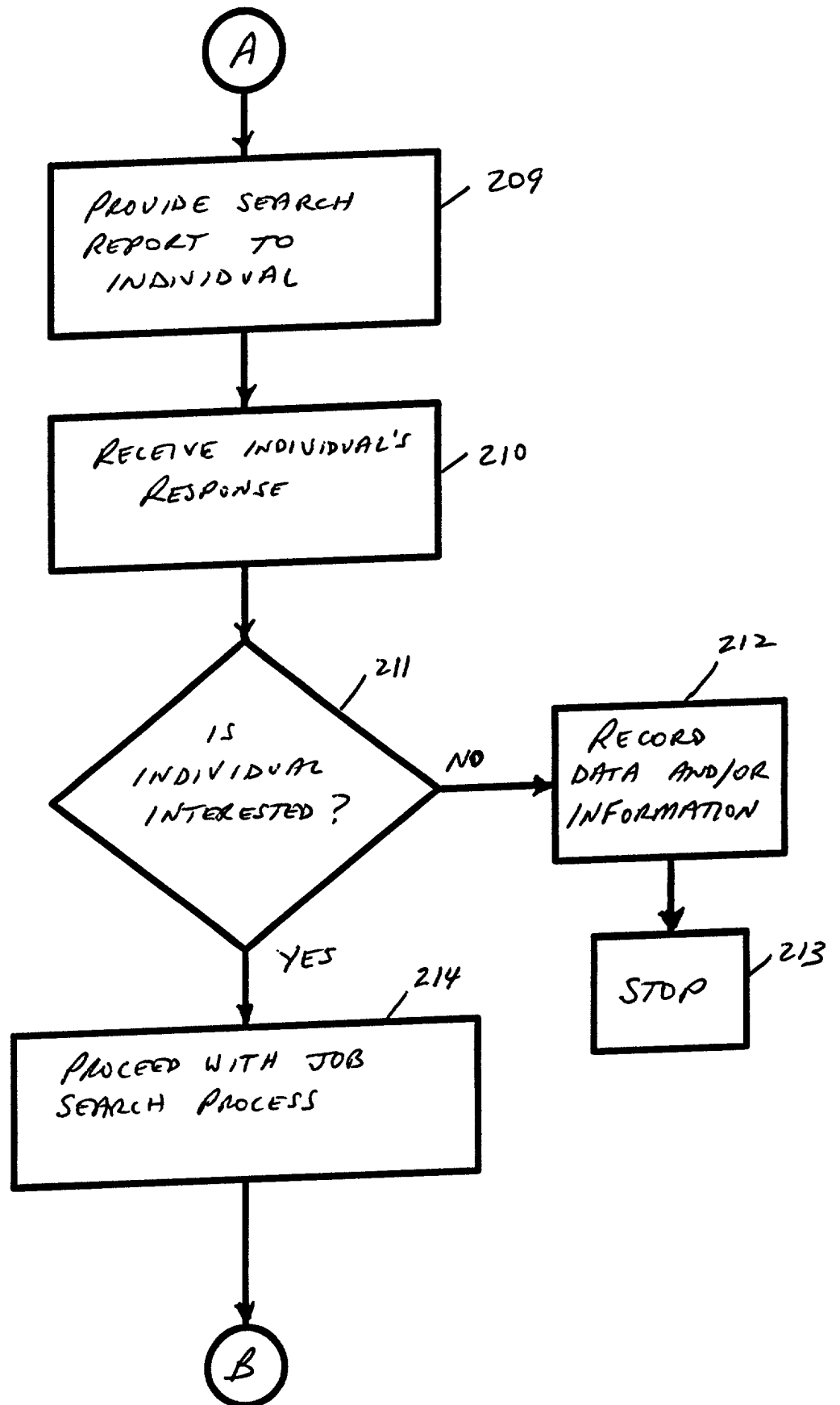
PERFORM SEARCH/  
QUERY DATABASE — 208

A

**FIG. 5A**



1990b, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c, 1991d, 1991e, 1991f, 1991g, 1991h, 1991i, 1991j, 1991k, 1991l, 1991m, 1991n, 1991o, 1991p, 1991q, 1991r, 1991s, 1991t, 1991u, 1991v, 1991w, 1991x, 1991y, 1991z, 1992a, 1992b, 1992c, 1992d, 1992e, 1992f, 1992g, 1992h, 1992i, 1992j, 1992k, 1992l, 1992m, 1992n, 1992o, 1992p, 1992q, 1992r, 1992s, 1992t, 1992u, 1992v, 1992w, 1992x, 1992y, 1992z, 1993a, 1993b, 1993c, 1993d, 1993e, 1993f, 1993g, 1993h, 1993i, 1993j, 1993k, 1993l, 1993m, 1993n, 1993o, 1993p, 1993q, 1993r, 1993s, 1993t, 1993u, 1993v, 1993w, 1993x, 1993y, 1993z, 1994a, 1994b, 1994c, 1994d, 1994e, 1994f, 1994g, 1994h, 1994i, 1994j, 1994k, 1994l, 1994m, 1994n, 1994o, 1994p, 1994q, 1994r, 1994s, 1994t, 1994u, 1994v, 1994w, 1994x, 1994y, 1994z, 1995a, 1995b, 1995c, 1995d, 1995e, 1995f, 1995g, 1995h, 1995i, 1995j, 1995k, 1995l, 1995m, 1995n, 1995o, 1995p, 1995q, 1995r, 1995s, 1995t, 1995u, 1995v, 1995w, 1995x, 1995y, 1995z, 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, 1996d, 1996e, 1996f, 1996g, 1996h, 1996i, 1996j, 1996k, 1996l, 1996m, 1996n, 1996o, 1996p, 1996q, 1996r, 1996s, 1996t, 1996u, 1996v, 1996w, 1996x, 1996y, 1996z, 1997a, 1997b, 1997c, 1997d, 1997e, 1997f, 1997g, 1997h, 1997i, 1997j, 1997k, 1997l, 1997m, 1997n, 1997o, 1997p, 1997q, 1997r, 1997s, 1997t, 1997u, 1997v, 1997w, 1997x, 1997y, 1997z, 1998a, 1998b, 1998c, 1998d, 1998e, 1998f, 1998g, 1998h, 1998i, 1998j, 1998k, 1998l, 1998m, 1998n, 1998o, 1998p, 1998q, 1998r, 1998s, 1998t, 1998u, 1998v, 1998w, 1998x, 1998y, 1998z, 1999a, 1999b, 1999c, 1999d, 1999e, 1999f, 1999g, 1999h, 1999i, 1999j, 1999k, 1999l, 1999m, 1999n, 1999o, 1999p, 1999q, 1999r, 1999s, 1999t, 1999u, 1999v, 1999w, 1999x, 1999y, 1999z, 2000a, 2000b, 2000c, 2000d, 2000e, 2000f, 2000g, 2000h, 2000i, 2000j, 2000k, 2000l, 2000m, 2000n, 2000o, 2000p, 2000q, 2000r, 2000s, 2000t, 2000u, 2000v, 2000w, 2000x, 2000y, 2000z, 2001a, 2001b, 2001c, 2001d, 2001e, 2001f, 2001g, 2001h, 2001i, 2001j, 2001k, 2001l, 2001m, 2001n, 2001o, 2001p, 2001q, 2001r, 2001s, 2001t, 2001u, 2001v, 2001w, 2001x, 2001y, 2001z, 2002a, 2002b, 2002c, 2002d, 2002e, 2002f, 2002g, 2002h, 2002i, 2002j, 2002k, 2002l, 2002m, 2002n, 2002o, 2002p, 2002q, 2002r, 2002s, 2002t, 2002u, 2002v, 2002w, 2002x, 2002y, 2002z, 2003a, 2003b, 2003c, 2003d, 2003e, 2003f, 2003g, 2003h, 2003i, 2003j, 2003k, 2003l, 2003m, 2003n, 2003o, 2003p, 2003q, 2003r, 2003s, 2003t, 2003u, 2003v, 2003w, 2003x, 2003y, 2003z, 2004a, 2004b, 2004c, 2004d, 2004e, 2004f, 2004g, 2004h, 2004i, 2004j, 2004k, 2004l, 2004m, 2004n, 2004o, 2004p, 2004q, 2004r, 2004s, 2004t, 2004u, 2004v, 2004w, 2004x, 2004y, 2004z, 2005a, 2005b, 2005c, 2005d, 2005e, 2005f, 2005g, 2005h, 2005i, 2005j, 2005k, 2005l, 2005m, 2005n, 2005o, 2005p, 2005q, 2005r, 2005s, 2005t, 2005u, 2005v, 2005w, 2005x, 2005y, 2005z, 2006a, 2006b, 2006c, 2006d, 2006e, 2006f, 2006g, 2006h, 2006i, 2006j, 2006k, 2006l, 2006m, 2006n, 2006o, 2006p, 2006q, 2006r, 2006s, 2006t, 2006u, 2006v, 2006w, 2006x, 2006y, 2006z, 2007a, 2007b, 2007c, 2007d, 2007e, 2007f, 2007g, 2007h, 2007i, 2007j, 2007k, 2007l, 2007m, 2007n, 2007o, 2007p, 2007q, 2007r, 2007s, 2007t, 2007u, 2007v, 2007w, 2007x, 2007y, 2007z, 2008a, 2008b, 2008c, 2008d, 2008e, 2008f, 2008g, 2008h, 2008i, 2008j, 2008k, 2008l, 2008m, 2008n, 2008o, 2008p, 2008q, 2008r, 2008s, 2008t, 2008u, 2008v, 2008w, 2008x, 2008y, 2008z, 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2009d, 2009e, 2009f, 2009g, 2009h, 2009i, 2009j, 2009k, 2009l, 2009m, 2009n, 2009o, 2009p, 2009q, 2009r, 2009s, 2009t, 2009u, 2009v, 2009w, 2009x, 2009y, 2009z, 2010a, 2010b, 2010c, 2010d, 2010e, 2010f, 2010g, 2010h, 2010i, 2010j, 2010k, 2010l, 2010m, 2010n, 2010o, 2010p, 2010q, 2010r, 2010s, 2010t, 2010u, 2010v, 2010w, 2010x, 2010y, 2010z, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c, 2011d, 2011e, 2011f, 2011g, 2011h, 2011i, 2011j, 2011k, 2011l, 2011m, 2011n, 2011o, 2011p, 2011q, 2011r, 2011s, 2011t, 2011u, 2011v, 2011w, 2011x, 2011y, 2011z, 2012a, 2012b, 2012c, 2012d, 2012e, 2012f, 2012g, 2012h, 2012i, 2012j, 2012k, 2012l, 2012m, 2012n, 2012o, 2012p, 2012q, 2012r, 2012s, 2012t, 2012u, 2012v, 2012w, 2012x, 2012y, 2012z, 2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2013d, 2013e, 2013f, 2013g, 2013h, 2013i, 2013j, 2013k, 201



**FIG. 5B**

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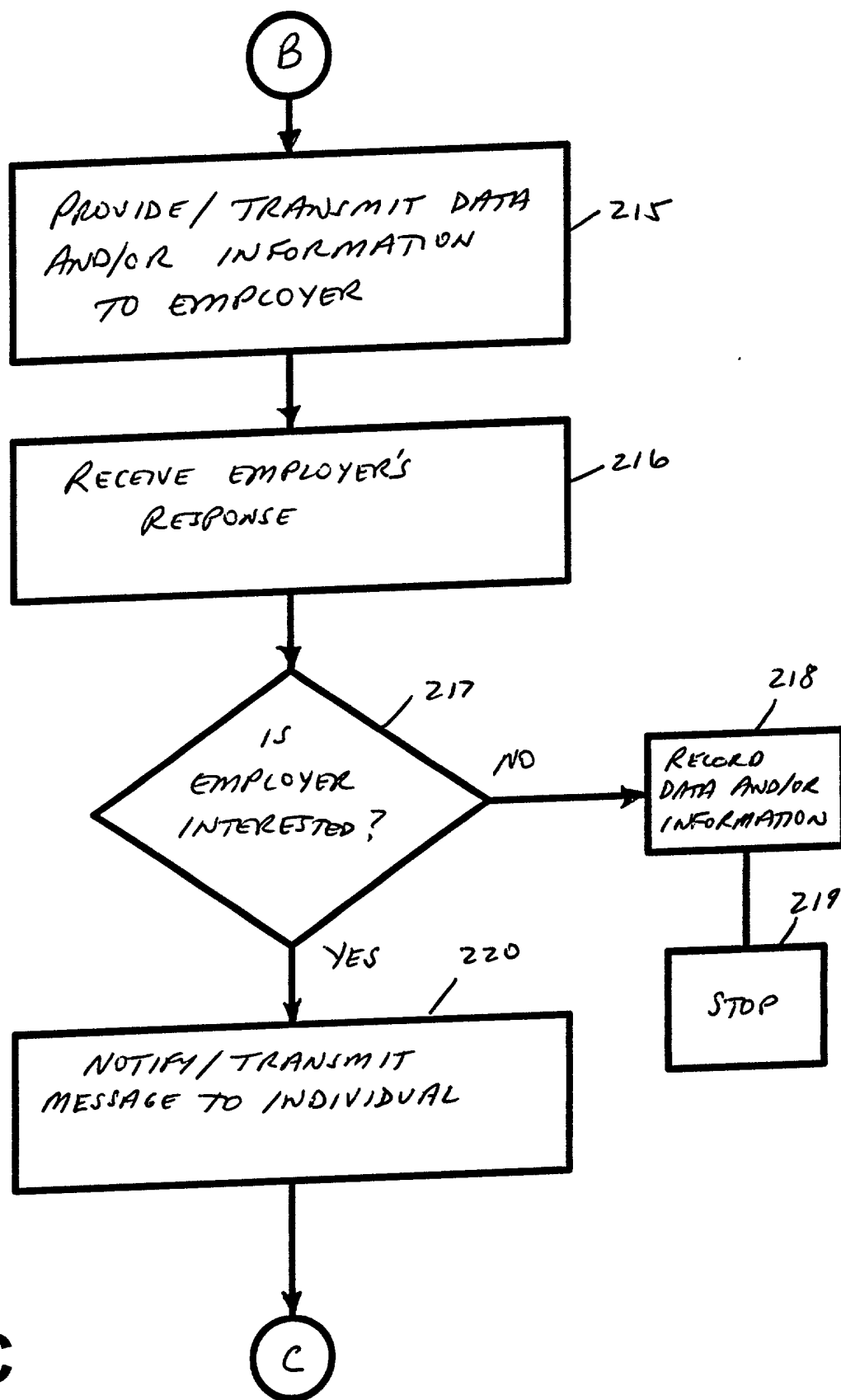
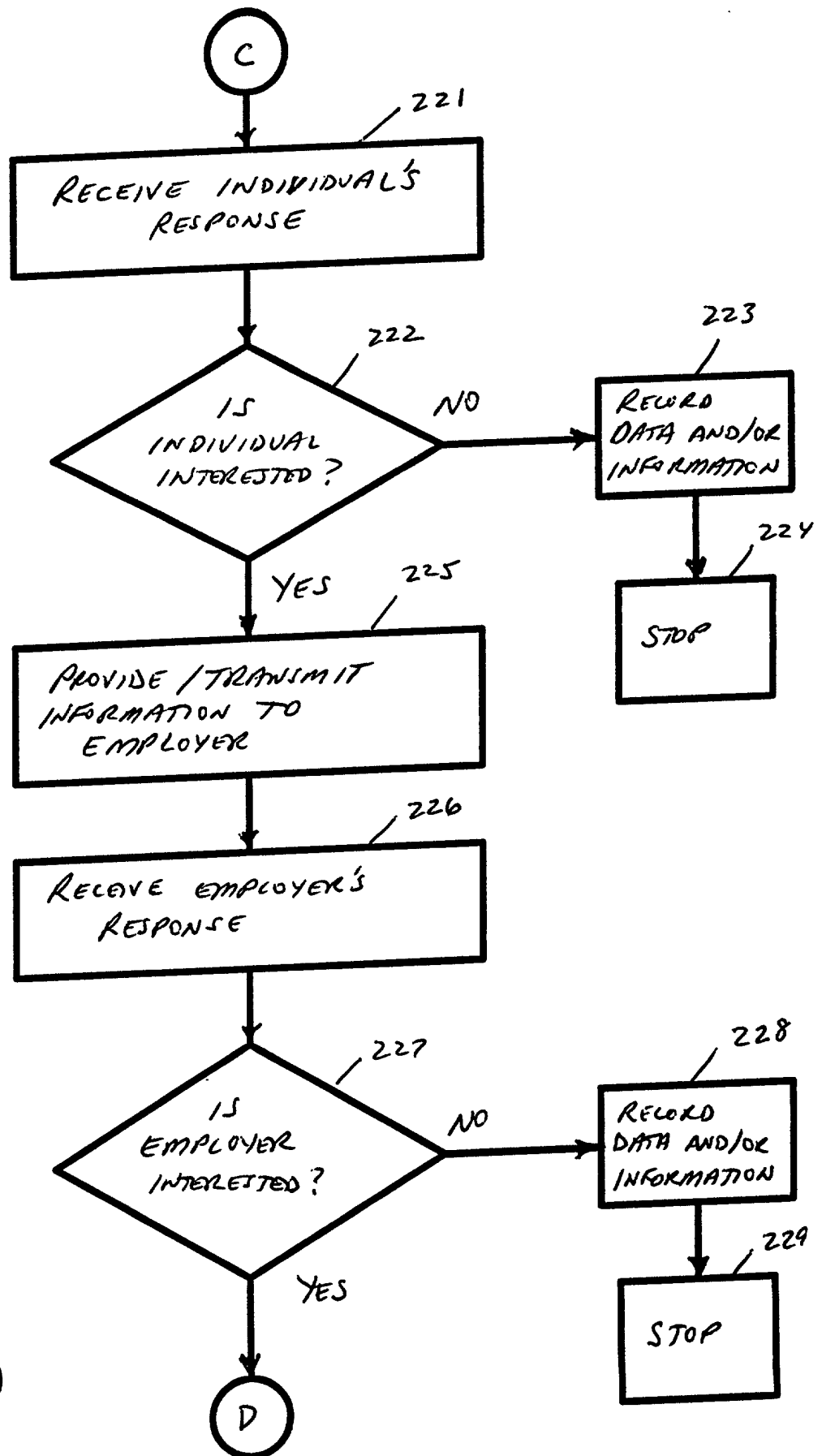


FIG. 5C

**FIG. 5D**



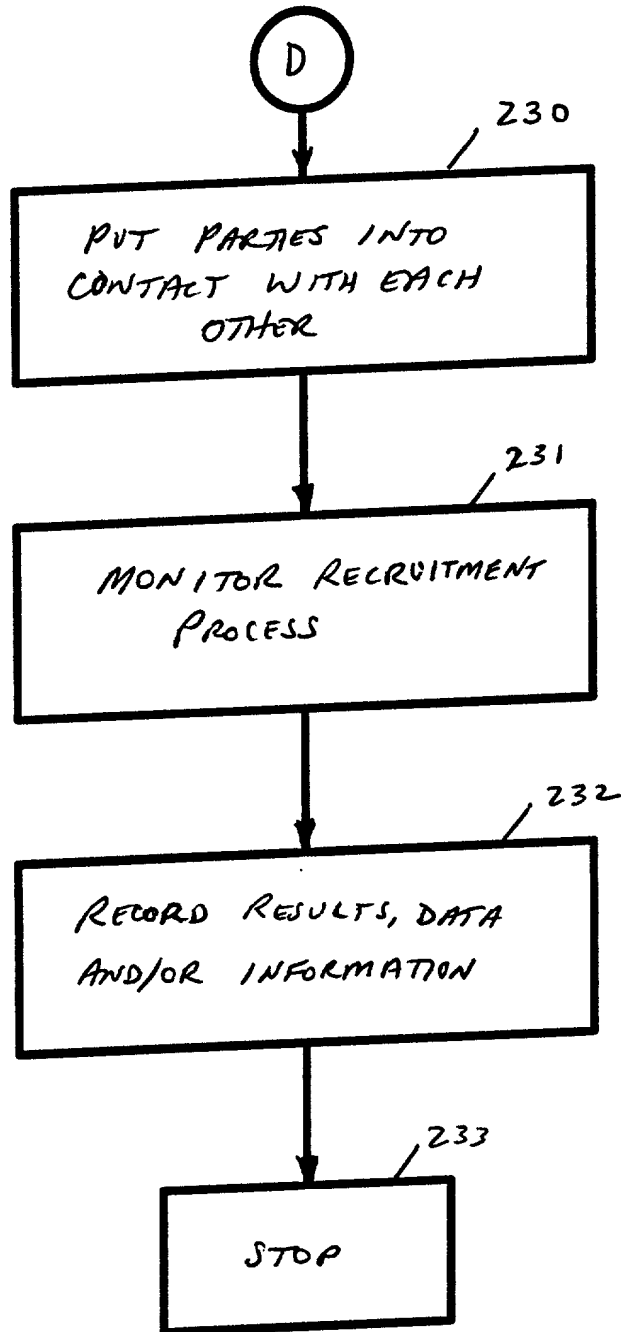


FIG. 5E

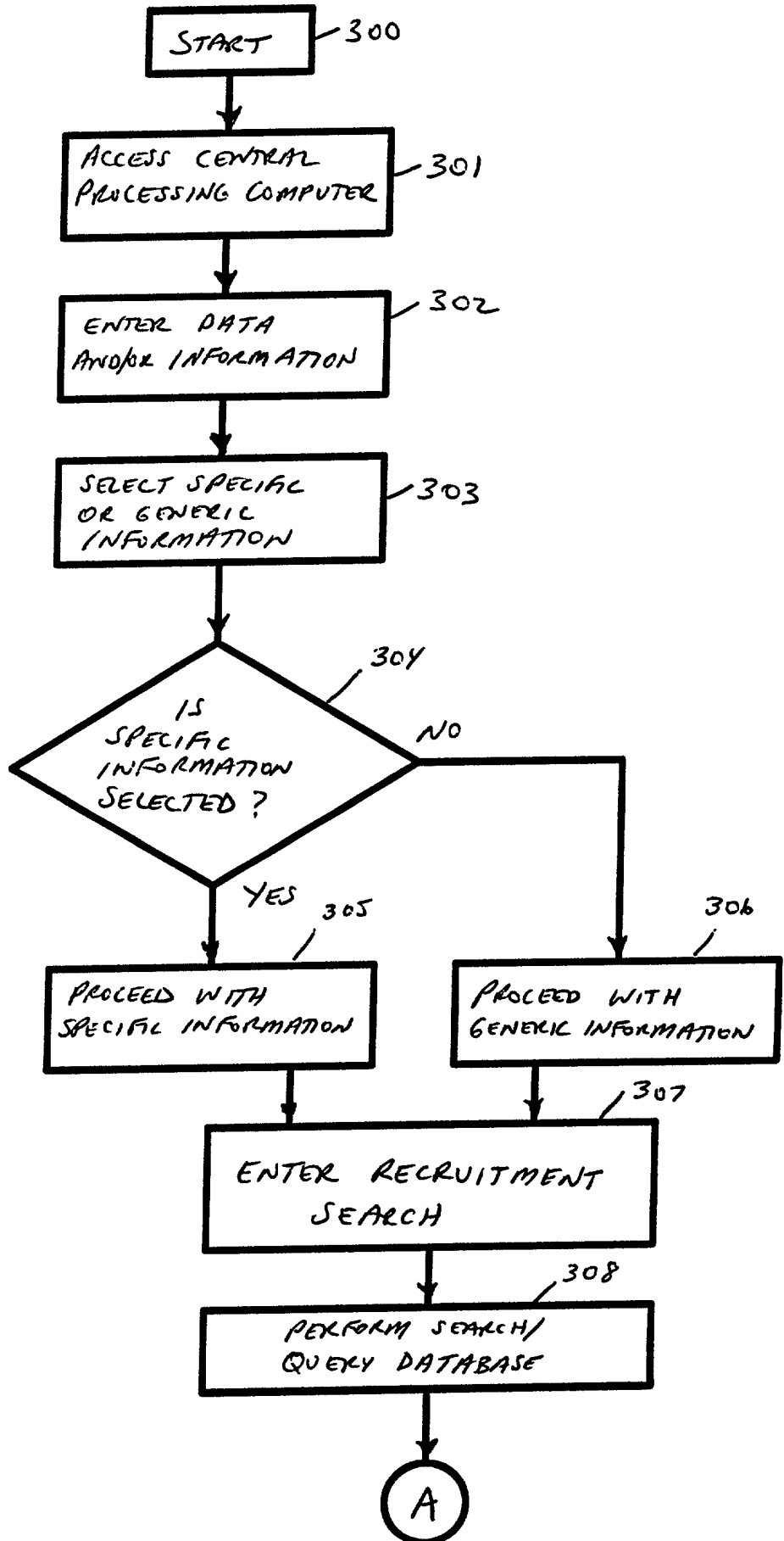
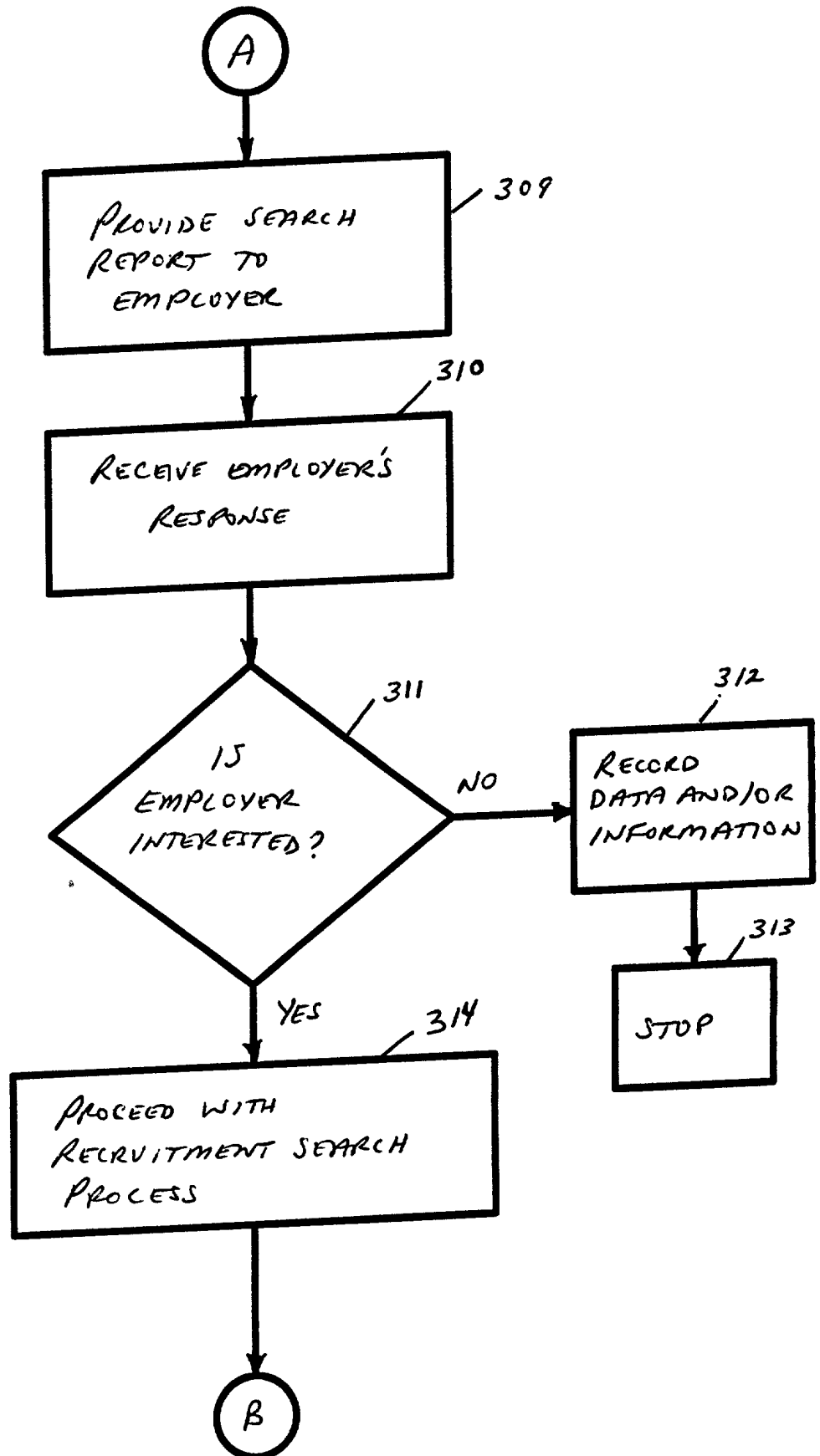
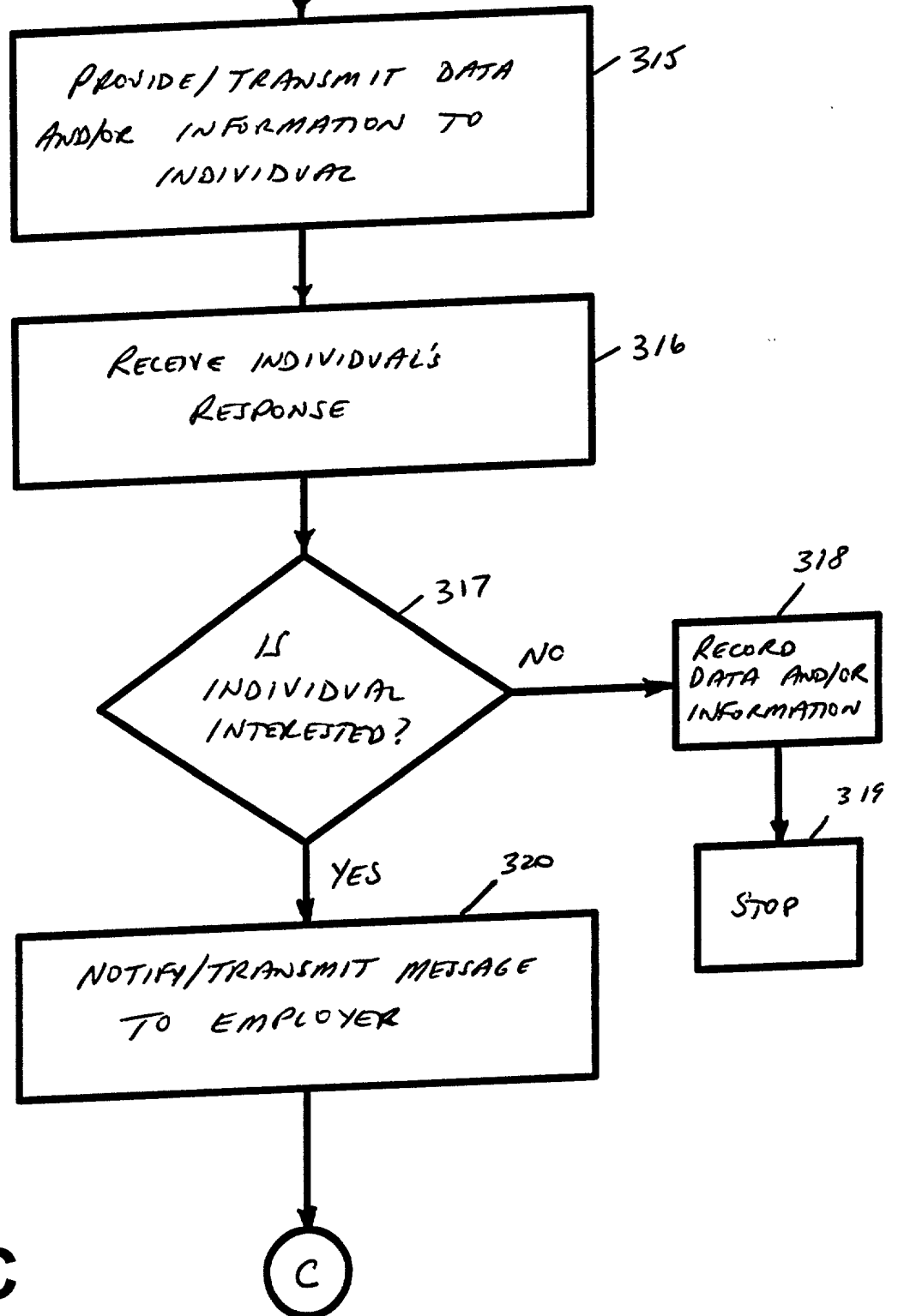


FIG. 6A

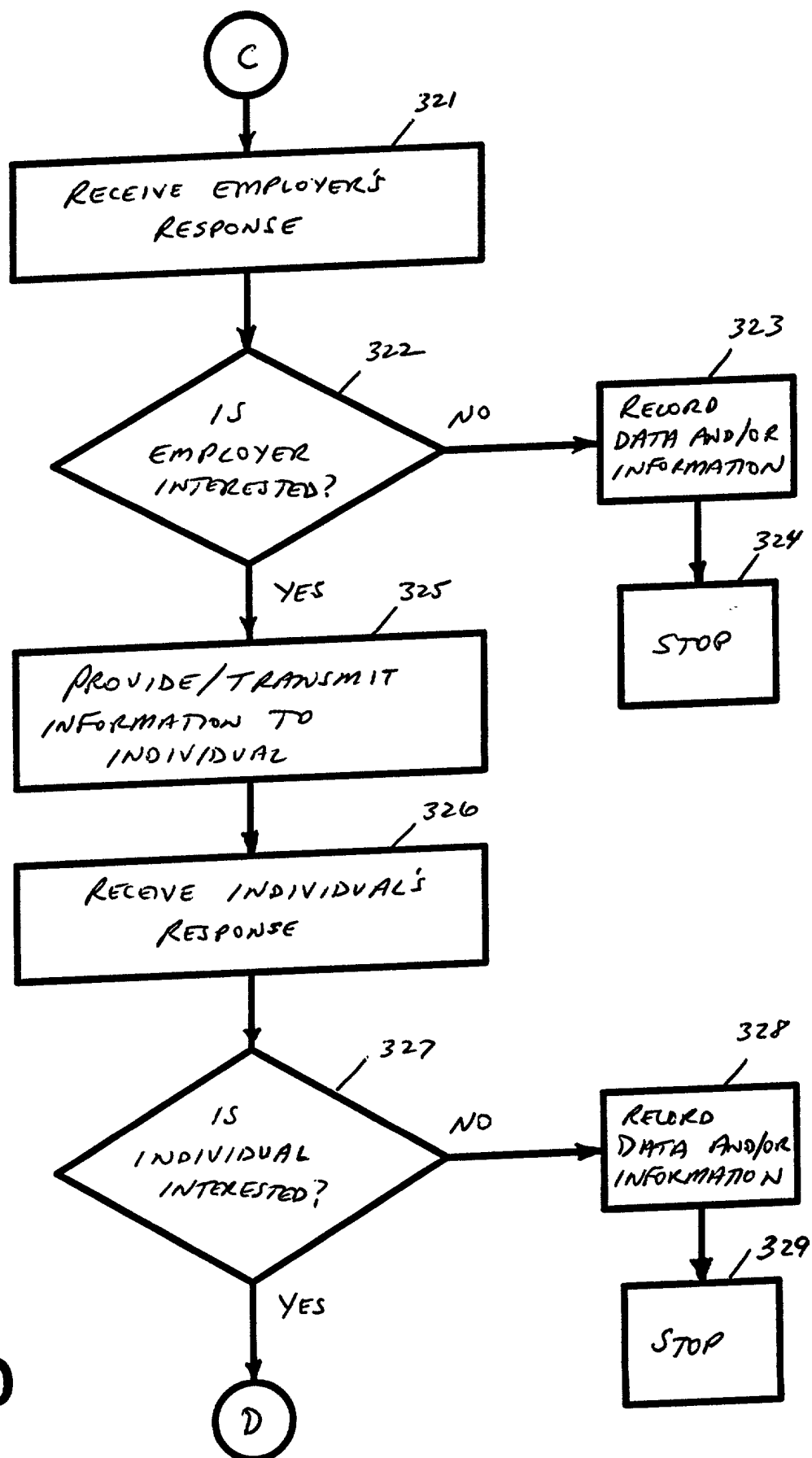
**FIG. 6B**



ⓑ

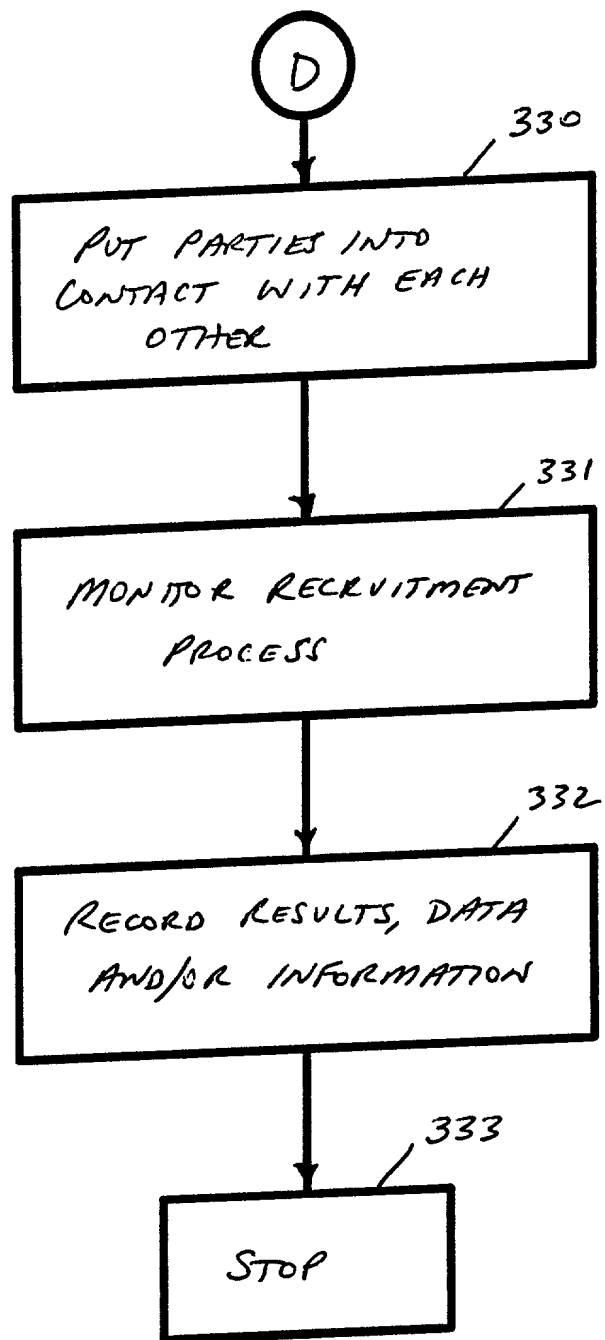


**FIG. 6C**

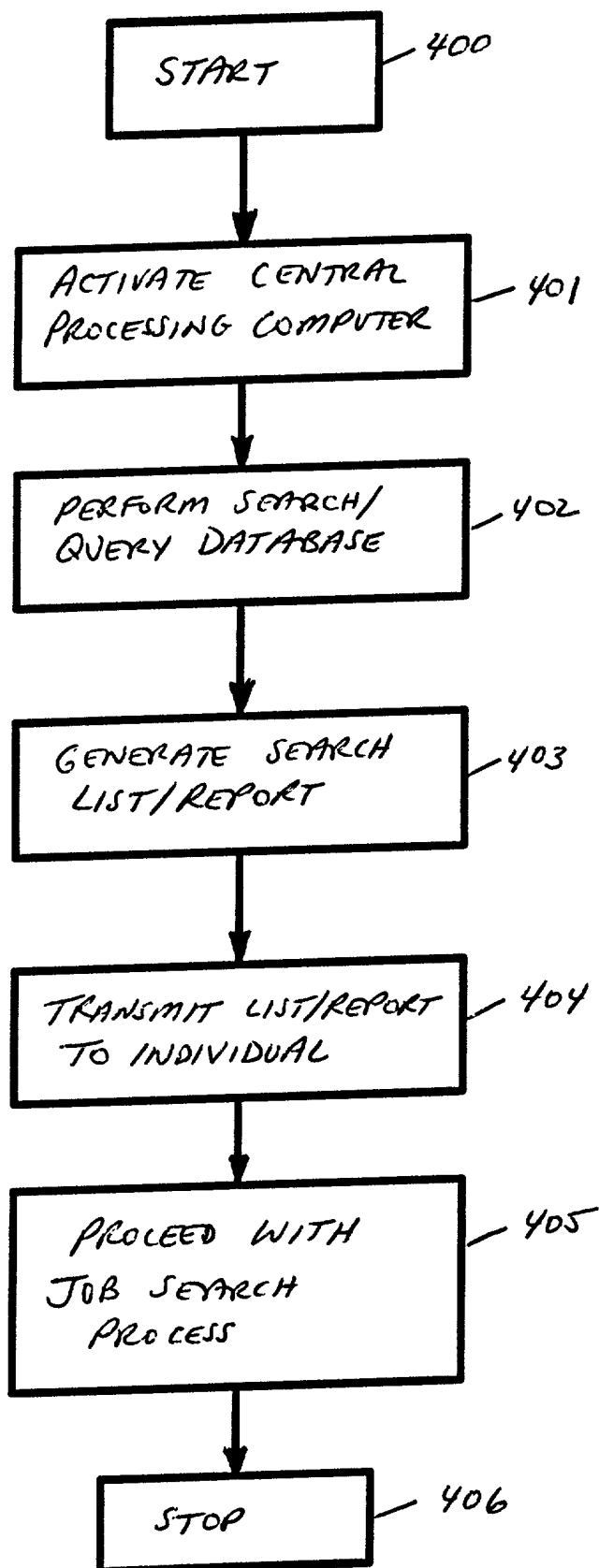
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**FIG. 6D**

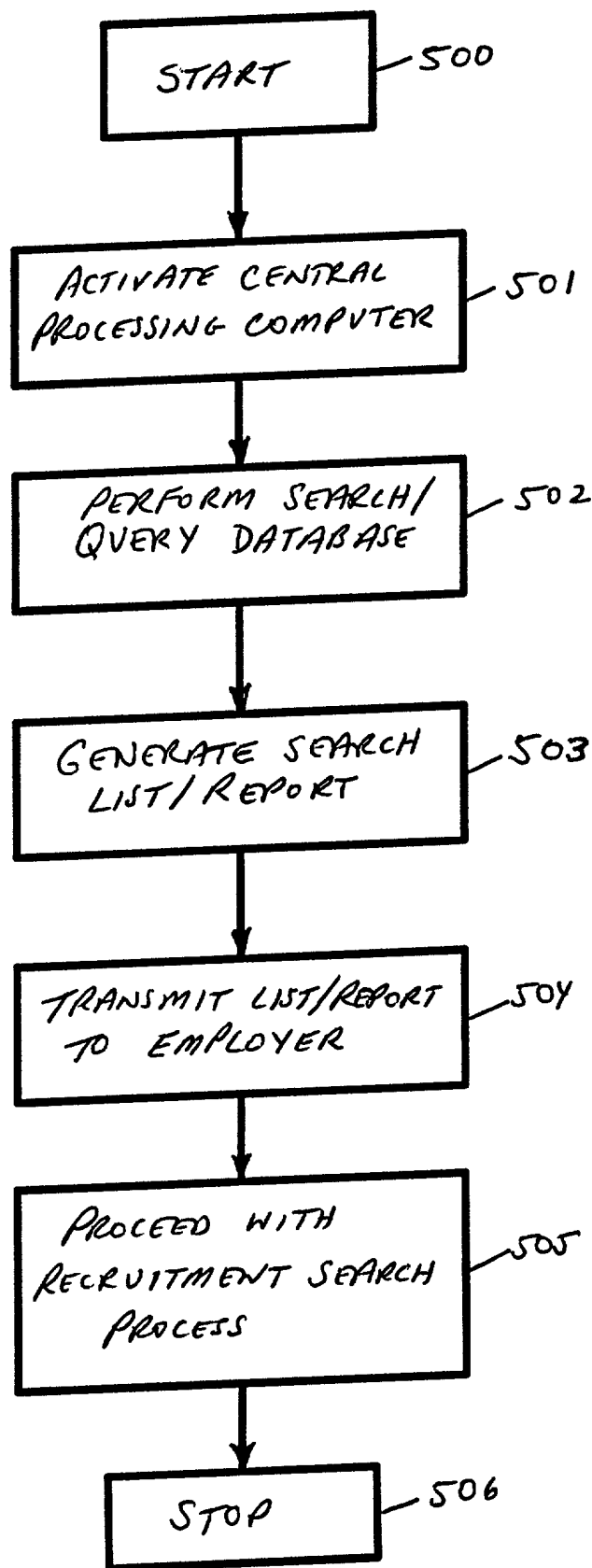




**FIG. 6E**

[illegible]

**FIG. 7**

[illegible]

**FIG. 8**

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PTO/SB/01 (12-97)

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<b>DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)</b>	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	RJ150
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	RAYMOND A. JOAO
	<i>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</i>	
	<b>Application Number</b>	/
	<b>Filing Date</b>	JULY 7, 2000
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing	<b>OR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)
<b>Examiner Name</b>		

**As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:**

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING JOB SEARCHING  
SERVICES, RECRUITMENT SERVICES AND/OR RECRUITMENT-  
RELATED SERVICES**

the specification of which (Title of the Invention)

☒ is attached hereto  
OR  
☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)  as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number  and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)  (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.
60/146,776	07/31/1999	

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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## DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: ☐ Customer Number  OR

☒ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

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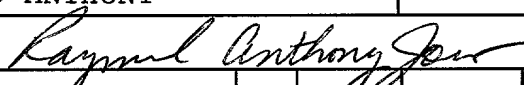
Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
RAYMOND A. JOAO	35,907		

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

Direct all correspondence to: ☐ Customer Number  or Bar Code Label OR ☒ Correspondence address below

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle [if any])			Family Name or Surname		
RAYMOND ANTHONY			JOAO		
Inventor's Signature				Date	7/7/00
Residence: City	YONKERS	State	N. Y.	Country	U. S. A.
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City	YONKERS	State	N. Y.	ZIP	10703
				Country	U. S. A.

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the \_\_\_\_\_ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto